

# THE Library Journal

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Library Economy and Bibliography

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## Contents :

	PAGE		PAGE
EDITORIAL.		THE NEWBERRY LIBRARY.—C. C. Soule.	11
Denver Public Library Report.	3	REJOINDER.	13
Tower Collection of Colonial Laws.	3	REVIEWS.	
Muskegon Public Library.	3	Tower Collection of Colonial Laws.	14
State Library Associations.	4	A. L. A.	14
CORRESPONDENCE.		STATE LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.	
Date Your Catalogs.	4	Connecticut Library Association.	15
College Libraries.	4	New Jersey Library Association.	16
Reports on Fiction.	4	Iowa Library Association.	17
Boston Public Library Plans.	4	Massachusetts Library Club.	19
Free Books.	4	New York Library Club.	19
MINUTE CLASSIFICATION IN PHILOSOPHY.—C. A. Cutler.	5	LIBRARY SCHOOL.	23
BONAZZI'S SCHEME FOR A CLASSED CATALOG.—R. Bliss.	5	LIBRARY ECONOMY AND HISTORY.	24
FICTION IN LIBRARIES, II.—R. B. Poole.	8	GIFTS AND BEQUESTS.	30
AN IDEA FOR LIBRARY CONTRIBUTIONS.	10	LIBRARIANS.	30
COMPARATIVE VIEW OF THE EXPENDITURES AND INCOMES OF LIBRARIES.	10	CATALOGING AND CLASSIFICATION.	30

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# THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

VOL. 16.

JANUARY, 1891.

NO. 1.

C: A. CUTTER, PAUL L. FORD, *Editors.*

THE report of the librarian of the Denver Public Library is very sensible. Mr. Dana believes in making his library useful, and for that he knows that it must be really free — not merely without price, but without restraints. "Perhaps no library in the country is so little governed," says he. And little has been stolen or mutilated, although the three reading-rooms are out of sight of librarian or assistants. It is an excellent testimony to the honesty and orderliness of the population of Denver. The same good qualities can be found in a very large part of mankind. Unfortunately, it needs only a small minority of dishonesty or carelessness to do great harm. 999 of every 1000 may be upright citizens, but one fire-bug may burn down half the city. One thief who gets in among the honest visitors of a library may smuggle away so many books that the directors get alarmed and adopt restrictive measures that in effect punish the good for the misdeeds of the wicked. If police judges could be made to understand that the mere causing the loss of books is the least part of the harm which a library thief does, that the real injury lies in the suspicion which he excites against the whole public, the restrictions which he causes to be adopted, the inconvenience which he thus brings upon everybody, and the consequent serious diminution of the usefulness of the library, perhaps they could be persuaded to punish such pests more severely than by putting them "on probation." Till that happens, libraries in older cities than Denver, where a class of beats and sneak-thieves has accumulated, must take precautions which are not needed in the country, nor apparently in the new cities of the West.

IN another part of this issue we review the catalogue of the Tower Collection of Colonial Laws. To the Historical Society of Pennsylvania has recently been given the finest and fullest collection of the early laws of this country. Already students are being drawn to this centre for study and consultation, and as the books are increased and better known, it will be more and more used. The collection cannot readily be

duplicated, nor is there longer the necessity for it. The colonial laws of this country are very rare and high-priced, and are, moreover, a very difficult class to collect and to keep track of. One library is willing to do this, and it deserves aid and co-operation from the other libraries, and not rivalry and competition. Rare editions of laws will come into the market in the future, which will be of far more use and value in this collection than in any other. No library has more money to spend than it needs. Let them leave these, then, to this society, and buy something quite as much needed on their own shelves. This is both practical specialization and economy.

MR. C: H: HACKLEY and the other trustees of the Muskegon Public Library acted very wisely in the choice of an architect to design the new building which he was to give to the city. They did not attempt to save a little money, as building committees are too apt to do, by getting plans without giving the architect the commission which experience has shown to be the fair compensation for his work. They did not suppose they would get first-rate plans from tyros. Six architects of good reputation and ability were selected, each of whom was invited to submit a competitive design, with the understanding that each should receive \$100 for his work, except the successful competitor (if there should be one), who would be compensated in accordance with the usual standard for first-class professional services. All of the architects invited accepted the invitation, with the result that several designs of great merit were sent in. After a careful consideration of the plans submitted, the board rejected all but two, whose designers were invited to submit further and amended sketches upon the same terms as originally proposed. This proposition was accepted and the new sketches in due time submitted. Both, it is said, showed great study, beauty, and originality of design and architectural adaptation, and, after full consideration, the board, by an unanimous vote, accepted the design of Messrs. Patton & Fisher, of Chicago, who proceeded to construct the building. The cuts given in con-

nection with the accounts of the dedication show that it is agreeable in appearance; whether it will be convenient in use one cannot so easily tell, for no plans are given. This is according to the usual practice in describing library buildings, even when the descriptions are issued by the library itself; the appearance of the building being evidently the main thing in the eyes of all concerned. But Mr. Patten, the architect, has the true theory of library construction; he thinks that the shell should be fashioned to accommodate the animal, not that the animal should be squeezed into the shell.

In addition to the "Massachusetts Library Club" we welcome in this issue the Iowa Library Society and the New Jersey Library Association, the reports of whose proceedings at their first meetings we print in this number as well as the call for the proposed Connecticut Library Association. The interest in library work is of course the magnet which brings them together, and the cause cannot but be served by such meetings. The distances are so great between the members that few meetings in a year are at present planned, but even these can do much in the "associated work" which they have resolved to attempt. At the first meeting of the former, the complaint was that there was not time enough for the discussions, and this has been a complaint at the A. L. A. conferences and in the New York Library Club. The multiplication of these gatherings and of our symposia will result, we hope, in steadily eliminating more and more library matters from the field of discussion. But this is not the only possible advantage of such associations. The personal contact is of the greatest value. There is an old saying that a fool can ask more questions in a day than a wise man can answer in a year. It is equally true that librarians can learn more in ten minutes' talk than they can by endless correspondence with each other. But we hope the results of these gatherings will not be limited to the attending members. Our columns are always open to all, and if these organizations fail to secure a larger audience, theirs is the fault, not ours.

### Communications.

#### PLEASE DATE YOUR CATALOGS.

SALEM P. L., SALEM, MASS., DEC. 20, 1890.

WE have just received a catalog with the following title:

"Second Supplement to the Catalogue of the Central Circulating Library, arranged under au-

thors." It bears nothing to show where the library is situated, or when the supplement was published. The envelope bears a Canadian stamp. It may be all right for local circulation, but the librarian cannot expect acknowledgment of its receipt unless he adopts some plan of letting us know who sent it.

GARDNER M. JONES.

#### COLLEGE LIBRARIES.

SUPPOSE the "College Section" should talk over—in the LIBRARY JOURNAL—the usages of the various colleges on such points as these:

1. How much of the selecting or proposing of books is the librarian expected to do?
2. Are the lists, when prepared, ordinarily submitted to some committee of trustees, or other parties out of the faculty?
3. Who does the actual buying?

There is difference enough in the ways of different institutions to make such a conference interesting.

ZETA.

#### REPORTS.

SACRAMENTO F. L., Aug. 19, 1890.

I FIND that many librarians, in making out their monthly reports, do not include juvenile fiction in fiction, so that their percentage of fiction is much less than it otherwise would be. They also do include juvenile history and all other classes in the juvenile department in the proper classes, so that they swell the percentage of other classes.

Do you consider that fair? They thus lower the percentage of fiction in two ways. I have always put Juvenile Fiction with other fiction, and as we allow all children over 12 to take books, and our library is a strictly free public library, we have a very large number of school-children who are constant readers and read mostly juvenile fiction; thus my percentage of fiction is larger than that given by most libraries in this State. Our juvenile travels and histories are just as much travels and histories as though written for older people, and the fiction is just as much fiction. I have often wondered why the percentage of fiction in my library was so much higher than in others, because I think people do not differ much all over the world.

CAROLINE G. HANCOCK, Librarian.

#### B. P. L. PLANS.

IF you had been at — shortly after the 37th report of the B. P. L. with the plans was received, you would not have had to wait till last September to hear librarians condemn them. We were a good deal interested in buildings then, and picked those plans fuller of holes than the target at the end of a German Schutzenfest.

#### FREE BOOKS.

THE American Oriental Society having about one hundred surplus copies each of vols. 2, 3, 4, 5 of its *Journal*, will be glad to distribute them gratis among such of the college and larger public libraries of the country as may not already have them and are willing to pay the express charges. Application may be made to the librarian of the Society, Adrian Van Name, New Haven, Conn.

## MINUTE CLASSIFICATION IN PHILOSOPHY.

BY C. A. CUTTER.

It has been objected to such minute classifications as I have employed in the class Philosophy that it inevitably leads to the use of inordinately long class-marks, wearisome and confusing to the public. But I find by experiment — that is, by the actual arrangement of this class, in the Boston Athenæum — that the majority of the books take short marks, that the longer marks are brought into use so seldom as not to be noticeable, and that when they are employed they do a service which justifies their existence.

The exact figures are these :

1128	works in Philosophy have	1587	volumes.
43	works are marked with	1	character.
430	" " " " " "	2	characters.
344	" " " " " "	3	" "
817	" " " " " "		
267	" " " " " "	4	" "
43	" " " " " "	5	" "
1	" " " " " "	6	" "

Now no one notices three characters in a class-mark ; few would be troubled by four ; yet only 44 — *i.e.*, less than 4 per cent. of the whole — have over four characters, and 72 per cent. have three characters or less. It is plain that in this subject at least the fear of long class-marks is unwarranted.

But I may be asked : If there is so little need of the longer marks, why use them at all ?

For two reasons. First, the books to which they are applied are few, it is true ; but the books from which those few are separated by them are many ; and the few, if they had not a subdivision to themselves, would have to be hunted for in a crowd ; whereas now one can put his hand on them at once. Take, for example, five- and six-character books. Half of them belong to a collection of volumes treating on moral qualities, duties, virtues, and crimes, arranged alphabetically by means of these long marks ; any single virtue would be lost among them with a shorter mark ; and as the collection grows this danger increases.

The second reason is this: If there are two or more books on the same minute subject they are brought together. The half-shelf of American philosophy, the shelf of Italian, the shelf and a half of Scotch are thus each brought together and picked out from the 20 shelves of modern philosophy, and so are the two volumes of Norwegian and the two volumes of Swiss philosophy. It is no slight gain, when one is in a hurry, to be able to take down at once a handful of books on a subject that is asked for, and not to have to search for them over two or three shelves.

## BONAZZI'S SCHEME FOR A CLASSED CATALOGUE.

BY R. BLISS, LIBRARIAN OF THE REDWOOD LIBRARY, NEWPORT.

ANY one who has paid attention to the recent progress of library economy in Europe must have noticed with gratification the activity which has of late characterized the librarians of Italy, whose readiness to adopt the most approved methods of library work promises to place them ere long in the front rank of our profession.

Among the many contributions of the year to this branch of knowledge the most important, unquestionably, is a *Schema di catalogo sistematico per le biblioteche*, by Dr. Giuliano Bonazzi, Parma, 1890, wherein he sets forth a systematic classification with corresponding class-marks, suitable for libraries of moderate size. Dr. Bonazzi is a believer in close-classification, and although he has not worked out his *Schema* with anything like minuteness, he yet recognizes the fact that close-classification is, of all others, the one which gives the most satisfactory results, and he has carried it out on these lines.

In this work Dr. Bonazzi's task has been a comparatively easy one, since he has been able to take advantage of the labours of his predecessors, Cutter, Dewey, and Perkins (not to mention others), who have been, as it were, pioneers in the field, and upon whom the burden and heat of the day has fallen, to whom, together with Dr. Hartwig, he acknowledges his indebtedness. Like the schemes of the workers above mentioned Bonazzi's plan is strictly systematic in form. That is to say, he groups his subjects in such logical order as shall bring together the books most closely related ; an arrangement which, as Mr. Cutter has already pointed out, possesses an obvious advantage when the books themselves are to be consulted, if only by the librarian.

As Dr. Bonazzi uses only the letters of the alphabet for his class-marks, and furthermore discards the letter J (except occasionally in his



subdivisions) he is reduced to a base of 25, which, however, he claims has proved sufficient for all necessary subdivision. To these 25 (capital) letters he apportions the main divisions, or classes, following an arbitrary order which corresponds more nearly to the Cutter than to the Dewey system, though the agreement in either case is not very close. His arrangement of classes is as follows: A, General works, B, Ethnic religions, mythology, etc., C, Christian religion, D, Jurisprudence, E, Sociology, F, Philology, G, Literature, H, Philosophy, I, Science, physical and mathematical, K, Chemistry, L, Natural science, M, Medicine, N, Surgery, O, Pharmacy, P, Veterinary science, Q, Agriculture, R, Industry and manufactures, S, Fine arts, T, Music, U, Recreative arts, sport, theatre, V, Geography, W, Voyages and travels, X, Archaeology, Y, Biography, Z, History.

For a small library a 25 base may be sufficient, and in first glancing over Bonazzi's *Schema* one is struck with the simplicity of his class symbols, but it is doubtful if such a base would prove sufficient for a large library, unless very carefully managed. Had the author carried out his subdivisions with much minuteness he would undoubtedly have found that his ultimate sections necessitated inconveniently long class-marks.

Moreover, his plan of giving one letter, and only one, to each main head is open to the objection that some entries are crowded with subdivisions requiring the grouping of subjects which had better be kept separate, or of extending the class-mark, while others which have but few natural subdivisions luxuriate in larger opportunities than they require, at the expense of their less fortunate neighbours. Thus Natural science, which here includes geology, meteorology, mineralogy, palæontology, archaeology, biology, botany, zoölogy, and anthropology, has only the letter L, while on the other hand Pharmacy and Veterinary science have a letter apiece. If Dr. Bonazzi had apportioned his letters more judiciously he might have given shorter rubrics than he has to such voluminous subjects as geology, botany, and zoölogy.

After disposing of his class divisions Bonazzi proceeds to arrange his subdivisions in a strictly logical order, bringing together, or in near relation, those subjects which are naturally akin. Each class is separated into such divisions and subdivisions as may be deemed necessary, making use of as many alphabetical series as are needed, each series being repeated with every new subdivision. Thus as D stands for Jurisprudence Da

to Dz will represent the primary divisions, Dia to Dlz the subdivisions of any one division — say Roman law — and Difa to Dliz the ultimate sections of the subdivision, the sources of Roman law. As far as is possible the letters are apportioned so as to insure the co-ordination of the scientific order of the subject with the alphabetical order of the marks. For example, in zoölogy the natural gradation of the higher animals — fishes, reptiles, amphibia, birds, and mammals — corresponds to the alphabetical order of progression, as Lqq, Lqr, Lqs, Lqt, and Lqu.

In order to provide a uniform mark for those general topics which are the same for all classes, such as text-books, societies, periodicals, collections, and the like, he has reserved for this purpose the letters a to h and y and z. The remaining letters of the alphabet he uses for the various subdivisions of the class. Of the letters reserved for preliminaries a stands for the bibliography of the subject, b for periodicals, c proceedings of academies and societies, e introductory works, f text-books, g general treatises, h collections, y polygraphy, and z the history and biography of the subject. In thus segregating his preliminary works, or "generals," Bonazzi is only following the best usage of the day, but it may be questioned whether his collection of "generals" is not unduly large in a classification where the subdivision is so far from minute. Introductory works (e) might well have been merged in the general works, and the general works themselves, which are assigned to g, might better have been included under the capital letter, as is the usual practice, whereby a shorter rubric would have been obtained for works which are numerically superior. It also seems ill-advised to place the history of a subject, which is general in its character, at the end of the subdivisions of that subject. By discarding all "generals" except dictionaries, periodicals, societies, history, collections, and possibly bibliography, he would have avoided breaking up his books into so many series, and have obtained more letters for his subject divisions. That the latter consideration is a serious one he appears to recognize by restricting his "generals" to a, b, c, d, y and z, in certain comprehensive groups where the subheads are numerous.

One of the most commendable features of Dr. Bonazzi's classification is the use he makes of the geographical order in the arrangement of those subjects which lend themselves to such a disposition. As the capital letter V stands for the main division Geography, so the small v is used

for all those subjects requiring geographical subdivision, the designation of the particular region or state being effected by the addition of the letters of the ultimate geographical division. Thus Vn being Italy and Lpv geographical botany or local flora, Lpv would be the botany of Italy or, Sn being architecture and Vq Germany, Snvq would be the architectural monuments of Germany. In this feature Bonazzi has practically adopted, albeit in a limited way, Mr. Cutter's country list, though since he employs his subdivisions of Geography (Description) for this purpose, instead of using a separate list as Mr. Cutter does, he sacrifices to a certain degree the elasticity of this system without corresponding gain.

Furthermore, to carry out the principles in other departments Bonazzi has sought, as far as possible, to assign the same letter to a given topic whenever that topic appears in different classes. For example, K being chemistry Ok is pharmaceutical chemistry, and Qik agricultural chemistry. In addition the letters w and x are used for those subjects which, though subordinate to the main division, yet possess a certain independence and importance in themselves, as Aax for bibliotheconomy (Aa being Bibliography), or Fow, old French, and Fox, Provençal (Fo being the French language).

In the introduction to his *Schema* Dr. Bonazzi, in addition to some preliminary remarks on the utility of catalogues in general and a few concluding instructions on the methods of cataloguing, considers briefly the requisites for a practicable classification, the reasons why the Dewey and Cutter plans appear to him unsatisfactory, and gives in some detail the principles underlying his own system. The requisites for a satisfactory classification are, he says truly, a logical arrangement of subjects wherein one is led gradually from the general to the particular; minute subdivision, whereby the collocation of too many entries under any one head is avoided, and elasticity, by means of which additions can be made without overcrowding or necessitating a rearrangement of the class subdivisions.

Dr. Bonazzi thinks that the attempt at a logical arrangement of subjects should not be carried too far, since it is impossible to make the library catalogue conform to all the minute details of a scientific treatise. Consequently he disregards a logical order in the disposition of his main divisions, and in his subdivisions does not always adhere to a natural order as strictly as he might have done. For example: Philosophy is too far removed

from Theology, being separated from the latter by Literature, Philology, Sociology, and Jurisprudence. Religious philosophy—which here includes theism, rationalism, pantheism, etc.—is placed in Philosophy instead of Religion. In the Christian religion (C) the history of synods and councils stands between mysticism and liturgies, at quite a distance from ecclesiastical history, which latter topic is made distinct from the history of individual churches, which it *succeeds*. Engineering, which is one of the arts, is placed in the Physical Sciences; so is electricity and its applications; likewise the military arts. Mr. Cutter, more advisedly, places these three latter subjects in the Useful Arts. Mineralogy might better have preceded geology than followed it, and lithology, which stands near the end of geology, should have been placed near mineralogy. Prehistoric archaeology and anthropology are too widely separated—biology, botany, and zoölogy intervening. In Medicine, hygiene is put after medical jurisprudence, whereas it would have been more fitly located between physiology and pathology.

On the other hand the apportionment of Theology and Religion, Jurisprudence, History, and Philology is excellent, and is sufficiently minute. The subclassification of Literature is especially to be commended, not only for its orderly arrangement, but for the chronological subdivisions of poetry for each European country. The insertion of bibliography and the library arts in Aa—*Opere generali*—is likewise an excellent idea. Taken as a whole, and with a view to its use in a library of moderate size, the arrangement of topics is quite satisfactory. For a larger library, however, a considerably more minute subdivision of the useful arts, geology, biology, anthropology, and archaeology would be required.

In considering the question of elasticity, Bonazzi gives his reasons for not using the decimal system of Dewey, or its modification by Cutter. Regarding the former he says, quite truly, that it is excellent in theory but inconvenient in practice, for the obvious reason that every subject will not adapt itself to the Procrustean bed of ten digits. Bonazzi's disapproval of the Cutter system is based upon his dislike to the mixing of letters and figures for class symbols as complicating the marks, disturbing the numerical order, and producing a cabalistic form which shocks the susceptibility of readers. To these objections it may be replied that the marks in any extensively minute division will necessarily be complicated. Bonazzi's own rubrics, simple as they now are, would themselves have been complicated had he

carried out his *Schema* with any approach to the minuteness of Hartwig's *Realcatalog*. Bonazzi's last two objections do not appear to be valid ones. The numerical order is not more disturbed by a decimal system of marks than it is by a repeated recurrence of an alphabetical series, which is really decimal in effect. Moreover the figures in Cutter's class-marks are mainly used by him for "generals," which are thus more readily recognized as such, than by an arbitrary selection of letters, like those Bonazzi has made use of. As to the cabalistic form of the class-mark, it would appear that, aesthetically, there is not much to choose between Cutter's 8FY9H and Bonazzi's Sznsk.\*

Furthermore, it should be remembered that the Cutter class-mark is not an arbitrary jumble of signs, but that each one is, so to speak, an epitome of the title of the subject, and, by analysis, will designate the particular category to which the book belongs. Besides this, for the use of small libraries, Mr. Cutter has prepared a revised classification (the one now in use in the Cary

\* It may be remarked parenthetically that had Bonazzi eschewed the use of the uncouth letter z for the often recurring history of a subject, the assemblage of so many comical combinations would have been avoided.]

Library at Lexington) in which the rubrics are quite as simple, if not simpler, than those of the *Schema*.

The usefulness of Dr. Bonazzi's classification is greatly increased by the addition of a full alphabetical index with the proper rubrics attached to each entry, as Mr. Dewey has done in his "Decimal Classification."

In conclusion it may be said that Dr. Bonazzi has attained a fair measure of success in his attempt to compile a logical and simple classification for a small library. If he had followed more closely Mr. Cutter's method, especially as wrought out in the Lexington revision, some of his groupings would have been much more felicitous than they are at present. And if he had ever essayed the use of digits and letters, he would not have consented to handicap his system by limiting it to an unnecessarily inadequate base. Both are errors of judgment; but the latter is a much more serious one than the former, since it either results in congestion, or engenders confusion by necessitating long and scarcely distinguishable class-marks. In this respect Bonazzi's device shows no advance on the schemes of twenty years ago.

## FICTION IN LIBRARIES.

BY R. B. POOLE, LIBRARIAN NEW YORK Y. M. C. A. LIBRARY.

THE discussion of the question of Fiction in libraries has become somewhat hackneyed, yet no more important topic has been proposed since the library symposia were inaugurated in this journal. Few to-day question the right or wrong of reading works of fiction, provided they are by authors of acknowledged merit. There is a charm about the word *story* which fascinates young and old, the educated as well as those who have barely learned to read. Our Anglo-Saxon ancestors set us the example, when they listened to the recital of stories by Beowulf, and when they gave aid and comfort to the gleeman or minstrel of their day, while he enchanted them with legends of heroes and heroines. The novel of these times is a sort of survival of those early days. Richardson seems to have the credit of reviving this spirit, and inaugurating the modern English novel.

To-day the habit of reading is so universal, education is so widely diffused, and works of the imagination so overwhelming in numbers, and often so vapid and pernicious in quality, that it becomes a very serious question, what

will be the mental and moral result on youthful readers. Lowell says, "To wash down the drier morsels that every library must necessarily offer at its board, let there be plenty of imaginative literature." But the danger just now seems to be that we shall invite dyspepsia by too deep potations of all sorts of liquid decoctions.

The practical question which confronts librarians and library managers is one which has to do with the quantity of the works of fiction they shall provide, and the quality.

It seems to be generally admitted that the primary functions of a public library are educational, and that the governing body of a library have discretionary powers; that it is their province not only to provide a competent administration, but to mould, so to speak, the character of the library. They are not mere autocrats, serving their own sweet will, but stewards, doing what to them may seem for the best interests of all their constituents. There was never a time when so many topics were represented in books. Almost every trade and profession has its literature. Libraries are being resorted to for these works,



and they should be found there, but if fiction is to overtop every other class, and the shelves are to be loaded with duplicates of the very latest novel, how can they be placed there? Libraries complain that they cannot buy certain valuable works because there is a lack of funds. The interests of industrial classes, and justice to brain-workers demand that there should be a limitation in the purchases of books of fiction for the higher purpose of meeting these wants. In the number of the *LIBRARY JOURNAL* for September, 1890, is an article by Mr. Mason, in which he states that in 25 free libraries in Great Britain the percentage of the purchases of fiction was  $37\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., the issues averaged 74 per cent. The percentage of reading of fiction in these libraries did not always correspond with the percentage of supply. According to the report of the Boston Public Library for 1889, the total number of books in the circulating department was 44,904, of which 16,331 were classed as English prose fiction and juvenile books (the latter not all fiction), or about  $27\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. It would be interesting to have statistics of American free libraries, showing the proportion of fiction supplied as compared with other classes of books, and to note what correspondence there is in the supply to the demand. A reduction in the quantity of works of fiction furnished, means a reduction in the amount of trash which must in a few years cumber the shelves of the library. A reduction will leave money in the treasury for the purchase of the latest works in science and the arts, and the most meritorious works in literature. The artisan and the student stand in far greater need of the last edition of a book on sanitary plumbing, or electricity, or an important work on history or literature, than the reader of fiction, who need never suffer for lack if the newest book is not at hand. There is force in what Mr. Putnam has said about the time consumed in reading a work of fiction, that five books of light literature could be read while one solid book is studied; still, there remains the fact that an undue proportion of books is purchased to meet this unhealthy demand.

Our next criticism relates to the quality of the novels furnished. There are certain public libraries in country places, and in small cities where the population is mainly American, where this question might be easily settled by providing only the better class of fiction, ruling out the sensational, the vapid, not to say the morally and mentally pernicious. If people will have trash let not the public library be responsible for it, nor give its sanction to it.

But in our large cities and manufacturing towns we have to deal with a different problem. Here we have a class of hard workers, many of foreign birth, whose associations are anything but elevating, and to whom a novel is

"The world's sweet inn from care and wearisome turmoil."

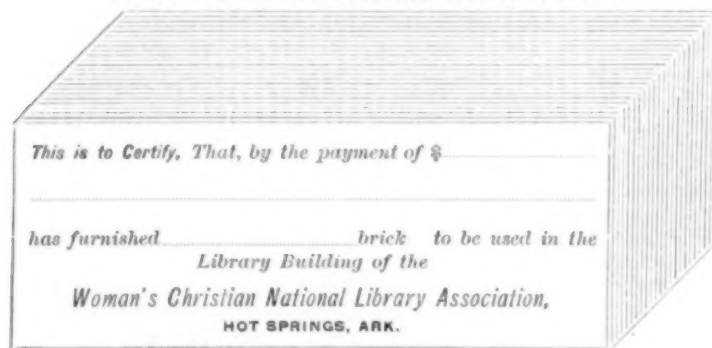
To such, obviously, George Eliot and Thackeray would not be this sweet inn, and there must be some adaptation of means to the end. A lower standard of literary merit might be admissible, with an absence of psychology in the delineation of character, but let there be no lowering of the moral standard. The disposition of librarians and library committees to elevate the standard of reading in libraries is in the right direction, but much remains to be done towards improving the quality of the fiction admitted. The press teems with pernicious literature, and no boy or girl can touch it without being contaminated. To say that young people will go on from this low type of literature to a better class is not logical; there are always exceptional cases, but the bad always tends to the worse. The effect of bad reading is almost ineradicable, and a plethora of fiction is most dangerous. But recently a student said to me, "I read so much fiction when I was a boy, that now when I sit down to study, it takes me some time before I can concentrate my mind upon my books." The effect of excessive reading of fiction is often most disastrous, and the injury to the moral character from the reading of books that speak lightly of virtue, and connive at bold or polished villainy, cannot be too strongly emphasized. It is often asserted that certain classes of people will not read at all unless you can give them something suited to their tastes—in other words, suited to a perverted taste. There are doubtless some whom you could not induce to read anything but books of the "blood and thunder" sort, but I feel persuaded that a decided reform might be effected if in some way books could be more carefully inspected before purchase, and not so hurriedly placed on the shelves, and especially if those who crave and inquire for the lower class of novels could be judiciously and kindly advised with, and better books, but those suited to their case, suggested. We are not without proofs of the good effects of advice. Take the library in Germantown, where no fiction is allowed at all, and here we are told by Mr. Kite, the librarian, that "the applicant is usually willing to be guided in the choice of a book." What Mr. Hill, of Newark, says is significant. According to his experience, a boy will take some other

author than Alger or Optic if they cannot get them. Poor, injurious books are multiplied with wonderful rapidity, but good ones are issuing from the press as never before. The selection of books attractive in form and educational in character, and entertaining in style, is therefore less difficult than formerly. "Reading for the Young," recently issued by the Publishing Section of the A. L. A., is a decided help in the matter of selection. We are evidently working towards a better day. The Publishing Section might perhaps be supplemented by an Expurgatorial Section, whose vocation would be to index, but to index the bad and not the good, but their list would be confidential, which would be a disappointment to many an author.

A reduction of the quantity of works of fiction supplied to our public libraries would almost necessarily improve the quality. The purchase of fewer books would lead buyers to be more select.

The inordinate demand for exciting fiction would be supplied by something better. The general tone of reading would be elevated, writers of poor, thin, and *realistic* novels, would find less market for their wares, and not a few might be compelled thereby to seek other occupations. The absence of certain books from the shelves of public libraries would be a silent protest against their mercenary authors. The enrichment of the library in other departments, while not excluding the best in fiction, would make the library a more powerful and useful factor in the community. Such a course would at first perceptibly diminish the circulation, and create a temporary cyclone, but we believe with firmness on the part of the officials, and a readiness to render every assistance to the most humble reader by library attendants, the critical period would soon be passed, and the library would have a firmer hold on the people than ever, and be a greater power for good.

#### A NOVEL IDEA FOR LIBRARY CONTRIBUTIONS.



#### COMPARATIVE VIEW OF THE EXPENDITURES AND INCOMES OF LIBRARIES.

LIBRARY.	Population.	Appropriation by City.	Total Income.	Salaries.	Ratio of Salaries to Income.	Expenditure for Books and Periodicals.	Binding.	Annual Circulation.	Cost in Salaries per 1000 of Circulation.
Bridgeport, Conn., 1888.....	50,000	\$7,400.61	\$7,717.00	\$3,719.00	.48	\$2,208.30		185,000	\$43.75
Lawrence, Mass.....	38,863	7,427.40	8,908.00	3,629.00	.40	\$1,905	\$6.82	104,846	34.61
Lowell, Mass., 1887.....	64,107	14,800.96	15,423.00	6,192.00	.40	4,000	266	100,887	61.37
Lynn, Mass., 1888.....	45,867	6,390.40	7,557.00	3,184.00	.42	2,344	601	99,268	32.08
Newtown, Mass., 1888.....	19,759	10,170.00	10,616.00	3,518.00	.33	2,019	243	104,700	33.60
Paterson, N. J., 1889.....	80,000	8,127.00	8,522.49	3,003.00	.35	1,825	206	76,673	39.16
Providence, R. I., 1888.....	126,000	None.	18,321.00	5,837.00	....	2,170	442	72,191	80.85
Springfield, Mass., 1887.....	37,575	15,044.48	18,000.00	6,188.00	....	9,418	..	145,164	42.53
Waterbury, Conn.....	40,000	None.	10,542.27	3,460.00	.33	4,341	493	52,496	66.36
Worcester, Mass., 1889.....	68,389	18,507.00	21,305.00	8,845.00	.41	8,734	999	142,449	62.09
New Haven, Conn., 1888.....	80,000	10,000.00	10,664.29	3,340.00	.315	2,748	955	138,574	24.10

\* The population of Massachusetts is according to Massachusetts census of 1885. That of the other cities is based on estimate for 1889.

† Amount expended on the library; the actual income is much larger.

‡ The circulation has been affected by closing of library for removal. This year it is expected to be 100,000.

## THE NEWBERRY LIBRARY PLAN.

BY C. C. SOULE.

*From the Boston Evening Transcript, December 17.*

SOME weeks since the Chicago papers described the floor-plans finally agreed upon by the architect, librarian, and trustees for the Newberry Library of that city. The *Boston Post* commented upon the plans at the time in so savage a spirit, and with so little appreciation of their significance, that those readers of that usually just and intelligent paper who are interested in library matters were pained and grieved that the *Post* editorial should stand as Boston's only response to the announcement of the Newberry plans.

As no one else has ventured a reply, pray allow me—at this first opportunity I have been able to secure since then—to describe as briefly as possible the plans and their relation to the problems and progress of library architecture. There are so many persons in New England who take a keen interest in library science, that the discussion is sure to interest many of your readers.

The editorial referred to begins thus: "The mountain has labored and has brought forth, in the great city of Chicago, a diminutive rodent." This is as far from the facts as it is possible to get; for the Newberry plans are neither ridiculous nor insignificant. They mark an epoch in the building of large libraries, and whether the ideas they embody are accepted as finalities or only serve to modify previous ideas, every librarian and every architect of intelligence must study their merits and defects before planning the libraries of the future.

After a brief description of the plans and a few entirely inadequate criticisms, the editorial concludes thus: "The whole scheme is lacking in architectural effect and dignity, leading the critical to believe that the inspiring head is looking to the 'convenience and economy' of the paid help, from whom the suffering paying public has a right to expect some work as well as inconvenience to themselves for the money expended."

The italics are mine, to bring out more plainly this unjust and cruel insinuation. If it means anything, it means that Dr. Poole and other librarians who insist that new libraries shall have air, light and space for cataloguing and the necessary routine work, are planning for their own luxurious comfort and idleness. As a matter of fact, the typical librarian of our generation is a more active, constant, unselfish, conscientious, enthusiastic worker than his contemporaries of any of the learned professions, the clergy not excepted. He thinks, talks, acts, dreams, lives library work. He gives to the public—from pure public spirit and love of his calling—double and treble the work he is paid for. There are lazy and incompetent men and women who fill librarians' positions, but the librarians of Dr. Poole's stamp—and there are hosts of them through the towns and villages of America—are the most faithful and efficient public servants of our generation. No one in the slightest degree conversant with the noble work they are doing could suppress indignation at such an imputation on their industry and fidelity.

So much for the *Post's* editorial; now to the plans. The Newberry Library, as is well known, has a magnificent endowment, to be devoted to the establishment and maintenance of a reference library. The problems pertaining to the issue and circulation of books are therefore excluded from consideration, and it is only necessary to provide for the different classes of students who may wish to consult books in the library building.

The trustees formulated their ideas of what the building should be in a letter to the architect and the librarian conjointly. This communication is too long for quotation, but it should be said that it embodies many sensible suggestions and requirements. Among them the following may be mentioned:

That of the whole block selected for a site, 212 x 318 feet, bounded on all four sides by streets, only one side shall at present be built upon.

That a permanent fireproof building, four or five stories high, shall be erected on this front with an auditorium, rooms for reading and study, and storage capacity for at least 400,000 volumes—which is calculated as sufficient for twenty five years' growth of the library.

That there be abundance of natural light throughout the building.

That while the building shall be a credit to the city and to the designer as a pure specimen of the style of architecture adopted, and conveying to all the impression of the lofty use for which it is designed, it yet be planned with such simplicity and economy in its construction and finish as may consist with its comfortable use, and its easy, convenient, and thus economical administration.

Mr. Henry Ives Cobb (a native of Brookline, Mass.) was selected as the architect, and spent several months in this country and abroad examining library buildings and getting the ideas of librarians as to what should be imitated and what should be avoided, in the light of their experience. The result of this careful and methodical preparation will undoubtedly appear in the details of arrangement and construction, as they are gradually elaborated.

But the floor-plans, as now presented in the rough, are well understood to be those of the librarian, Dr. Poole, whose experience in the Boston Athenæum, and in the public libraries successively of Cincinnati and Chicago, has developed in his mind a distinct theory of construction, differing in scope and detail from that of any existing library. If the investigations of the architect have led him to think that Dr. Poole's floor-plans could perhaps be improved, he has gracefully waived his ideas, in deference to the experience and the positive beliefs of the librarian, who now has the opportunity to embody in permanent form the theories which he has been formulating through a long life of library activity. It should be noted, however, that in planning at present only a fourth of the whole building, the trustees reserve the opportunity of correcting, in the other three fourths, any features of Dr. Poole's plans which use and experience shall prove to be defective.

The plans of the portion of the building to be first built, occupying the whole front facing south on Walton Place, are novel but extremely

simple. There are five stories, the first or ground-floor to be devoted to reception and administrative rooms and an auditorium; the other four stories to be occupied by large rooms cut off from each other by fireproof walls, and entered only from the rear by means of a corridor, constructed mainly of glass to transmit light, and running along the rear of the central rooms on each floor, the staircase and elevators being just back of the middle of the corridors. The height of the stories is moderate, the first floor being 16 feet high, the second 15, the others 14 feet each. The outer walls appear to contain as many and as large windows as the structure will allow. The corner rooms on each floor, occupying together about two-fifths of the space, will be flooded with daylight from two sides. The intermediate rooms will be well lighted from the front, and will have light also through the glass of the corridor from what will at first be an open rear, but eventually a courtyard, when the whole building is completed. Dr. Poole is sanguine that this light will be good, but others are disposed to think it cannot be relied on for fully lighting the rear of the intermediate rooms.

The middle room on the second floor is to be the general reading-room, and all the other rooms on this and the upper floors (except some small rooms for authors and specialists and for use of literary clubs or classes from the public schools), are to constitute separate libraries, each devoted to a different subject or group of subjects, and each to contain tables for the use of students. Thus, for instance, the visitor wishing to consult works on political science will be shown through the corridor to a room fifty feet deep by thirty feet wide, or perhaps double that width, if there be books enough to fill it, with the ten or twelve feet of space nearest the best light—whether it come from front or rear—devoted to tables for the use of readers. The rest of the floor space is given over to book shelves on the "one-story stack" system, double shelving 3 feet apart across the floor, and no higher than the hand can reach. A special attendant or assistant librarian supplies his needs, or allows him, under certain conditions, to go direct to the shelves. If he wants in the course of his study books not in that room, the attendant has them brought to him from the other rooms. If his wants are so diverse that he must draw upon several different branches of literature at one sitting, he can go to the general reading-room, where the usual facilities will be extended to him.

The capacity of each room, 30 x 50 feet, is calculated at about 27,000 volumes. As space must be left on the shelves in a growing library, for new books to be added under each topic and subtopic, this means an actual working capacity of about 18,000 or 20,000 volumes. There will be the equivalent of 10 such rooms on a floor, so that this portion of the 4 floors of the library devoted to books will have a calculated capacity of over 1,000,000 volumes and practical room for about 750,000; nearly twice what the trustees called for.

What are the merits and defects of this plan, from the point of view of the public, and of the librarian?

From the side of the public very few defects

are apparent. Such a building would be, indeed—as one of the Chicago papers calls it—"A Scholars' Paradise." If the scholar go to the general reading-room, he finds it centrally located as to the books in the library—so that with good system and the latest mechanical contrivances, he ought to get any book from any room with the minimum of delay. If he wishes to confine himself to one branch of study or investigation, he can go to a quiet desk in a smaller room, with no movement or noise to distract his attention, and with a librarian trained in his specialty to assist him in his search for authorities.

From the librarian's point of view more doubts arise. Does the whole body of literature naturally divide into so many topics requiring separate lodgment? Will not the plan of individual libraries require an unusually large corps of intelligent librarians, and so increase the salary list beyond the limits possible even to rich endowments?

Would not a combination of the close packing of the "stack" with this admirable device of separate rooms for different studies, be more consistent with economy of room, time, and money?

Dr. Poole, it should be said, is profoundly confident that the scheme can be worked out satisfactorily in these details. It is to be hoped that he will be spared, in full health and vigor, to carry through the building, and the early administration of the Newberry Library; for the experiment can be more satisfactorily tried under the guidance of its projector than in any other hands. If it succeeds to the full, Dr. Poole's great reputation as a librarian will be even greater and more permanent. If it proves to be less a success than he expects, its distinctive feature—special service for students in small separate libraries—must nevertheless remain a factor in all plans for the reference libraries of the future; nor can it be ignored by the designer of large public libraries which combine reference use with circulation.

As to the architectural environment of these floor-plans, the Boston *Post* critic seems to think that it cannot be made dignified and beautiful. But is it not just here that the architect's opportunity begins? Having accepted from the librarian the general details of inside division and exterior dimension, he has full scope for his ability. If he succeeds within the limits of simplicity and economy prescribed by the trustees in working out a noble and impressive exterior, he will demonstrate far more thoroughly his capacity and genius than if he had first planned the building for outside effect, and then crammed the public and the librarians and the books wherever they would go inside his structure.

To recur to my statement that the adoption of these plans marks an epoch in library construction, I would sum up by saying that they are unique and significant both in their inception and in their details.

As to inception, this is almost the first instance where a large library has been planned in full accordance with the wishes of the librarian, and where the trustees have recognized, to such an extent, that an experienced librarian is an expert in his own specialty.



As to features, the plan is original in arranging the rooms and their fixtures especially for the convenience of that portion of the public for whom the library is intended — the students and investigators. It is original in combining in the library a large number of special libraries, each with its own librarian, and having no general "stack" or book rooms from which the public are to be excluded. It is original, among public libraries at least, in providing seats and tables for readers as near as possible to the books they are to use, and in allowing them access when desired directly to the books on the shelves. In calling these ideas original, I do not mean that Dr. Poole invented them, for they have all been applied, separately and partially, in existing college, proprietary, or public libraries. The originality lies in bringing them together, in improving and developing them, and in applying them to a great public library.

I hope this description and comment are intelligible to your readers. If so, I will ask them if it is fair to dismiss such plans with the *Post's* application of "*Parturiunt montes, nascitur ridiculus mus*"?

BROOKLINE, Dec. 12, 1890.

To this there was a rejoinder in the *Post* of Dec. 23 ( $\frac{3}{4}$  col.), from which we extract the only remarks of any importance:

In the quotation of the closing paragraph he has perverted the meaning of the *Post* editorial. It seemed clear that Dr. Poole's plan would, if carried out, make it necessary for the public to walk the corridors and use the elevators when in quest of the books, rather than the usual way by which the attendants do this work, and that with his careful study of libraries he had looked, as men in business do, to the "easy, convenient, and thus economical administration," straying perhaps a little from the point of view of the public.

The plan still seems in several ways "lacking in architectural dignity and effect." The auditorium has only a height of 16 feet and is carefully tucked away in the corner most remote from the main entrance, which is itself inadequate for so important a building where "lofty use" is to be emphasized. The light and air borrowed across a wide corridor to assist in lighting the larger rooms and smaller offices such as toilet and dressing rooms have heretofore proved very nearly insufficient. The monotony, too, of interior windows is difficult to make pleasing. The cutting up of the floor space of all the stories into equal-sized rooms, for all the world like a Western town, "with choice corner lots and good ones between," shows at least a want of invention.

That the architect may make a presentable structure is possible, though the plan is rather forbidding. A noble building is not a thing of shreds and patches, but a whole whose integral parts of plan and fronts should blend into a complete composition. It is the more a pity, since accepting Dr. Poole's theory, the problem has such novel interest that it is worthy to be carried out with a faultless plan as well as an artistic exterior.

## SENSIBLE RICH MEN.

*From the Springfield Library bulletin.*

It is notable that many wealthy persons are coming to take measures, while still in the flesh, to anticipate, more or less, the distribution of their property, instead of entrusting it by will to certain of their survivors. A favorite form of such disposition is through the agency of libraries or educational institutions; and nothing could be a better monument to a man of means and public spirit, especially as it may so appropriately be erected and put in operation during the lifetime of the benefactor. Within the past few years a large number of our New England towns have been blessed by the erection and endowment of handsome libraries; in some cases by the generosity of resident citizens, but oftener, perhaps, by the grateful remembrance of those who have gone out from the places of their birth to lives of prosperity, and desire to furnish for the youth of future years better facilities for a suitable education than were available in their own early days.

Nor is this custom by any means confined to New England, though it perhaps has its most generous illustration here. Other sections of the country are blessed in the same manner, and the older countries across the water have a share. A recent English journal calls attention to the custom of leaving libraries and collections of books to public institutions, and in this direction there is a wide field worthy of even greater attention than it has thus far received among us. This is a land of reading, thinking people, and of men with specialties of idea as well as of pursuit. In many towns and villages, and in all our cities, there are men who have collected valuable libraries which relate to a single general subject — history, in special lines; biography; theology; fine arts; social questions. All these and many others have their enthusiastic devotees.

Generally these collections are carefully treasured during the life of the bibliophile; sometimes they are made accessible to others than the owner and his immediate friends, but more generally not. They serve to amuse, gratify and instruct a limited circle; but the death of the owner is too often the signal for their dispersal. Friends gather such as they especially covet, second-hand dealers secure a share, the auction room and the paper-stock man take what are left.

Yet in every case there is in the immediate vicinity some institution — a library, an educational, art or social society — where the collection, if placed as a whole, either individualized or associated with other works of a kindred nature, would form a valuable and interesting feature, as well as one to hold the name of the donor in grateful memory. It may be practicable for but few to found libraries and endow them; but there are multitudes who may enrich and benefit those already existent by the contribution, either personally or by will, of valuable special departments.



## Reviews.

THE CHARLEMAGNE TOWER COLLECTION OF American Colonial laws. [By C: Riché Hildeburn.] Privately printed for the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. 1890. 298 p. Q.

This catalog must take a foremost rank not merely from the rarity and value of the class of books it contains, but also as a special bibliography of great fulness and accuracy. Nearly 40 years ago, Charlemagne Tower, a wealthy Philadelphian, began collecting the colonial laws of his native State. As success in that field whetted rather than satisfied his search, the other States, and the English-American Colonies were afterwards included, and, almost regardless of expense, volume after volume was added, till it resulted in the collection here cataloged, which is by all odds the most complete in the world, and one which moreover can probably never be duplicated. But better still than the spirit which formed the collection is that which, almost from its inception, intended it for a public institution, and though death prevented the owner from carrying out this intention, it has been accomplished by his widow in their presentation to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

From the catalog which has been printed at the expense of the donor, we can gather a fair idea of the wonderful richness of the collection. In all, nearly 1000 titles are given, the earliest being the Massachusetts codification of 1660, and the latest being a Virginian session law for 1805, if we except a number of reprints of early laws. These are divided, so the catalogue tells us, among the colonies in the following proportion:

Barbadoes, 2.	New Hampshire, 6.
Bermuda, 1.	New Jersey, 25.
Caribu Islands, 3.	New York, 56.
Connecticut, 96.	N. Y. City, 4.
Danish W. I., 1.	North Carolina, 2.
Delaware, 7.	Nova Scotia, 2.
Georgia, 3.	Pennsylvania, 151.
Jamaica, 5.	Quebec, 7.
Maryland, 6.	Rhode Island, 74.
Massachusetts, 407.	St. Christopher, 2.
Montseral, 1.	South Carolina, 5.
Nevis, 1.	Vermont, 2.
New England, 2.	Virginia, 39.

A mere list of the number, however, does not convey any idea of the real richness of this collection. Of Pennsylvania it is practically complete, and hardly less so of Massachusetts, for it includes of this latter State the whole collections of Dr. George H. Moore, who for forty years has been a tireless collector in this special field. Of New York the collection is already superior to any collection in this State. These three States represent the chief strength of the laws, but Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, and Virginia are all strong. Of especially rare books we find the first codifications of Vermont, New Hampshire, and North Carolina, in each case the only known copies, as well as those of Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Delaware, and Virginia.

The catalogue has been compiled by Mr. Hildeburn, the author of the "Issues of the Press in Pennsylvania, 1684-1784," who is not merely a most accurate and careful worker, but who was especially fitted for this task, as he had largely assisted Mr. Tower in the formation of the collection. As a result we have what is not only a complete and full catalogue, but as well a very valuable special bibliography of an extremely difficult and hitherto uncataloged class of books. A mere check list of such a collection would be of great value, but this elaborate and beautifully printed volume leaves nothing to be desired.

Of course there are gaps in the collection, but it has been presented to a Society which will not merely hold the collection together. Already many omissions have been supplied, and the Society wishes to purchase any volumes it does not already possess. It is probable that the collection as it stands will never be duplicated, and a few years' work bids fair to make it as perfect as any such collection ever can be. It is now of the utmost value as the only collection where the laws of eighteen colonies can be compared and studied together.

P. L. F.

## American Library Association.

## THE PUBLISHING SECTION.

WHEN the Publishing Section was organized in 1886, it was intended that it should be carried on on the basis of annual membership fees, and publications issued each year to offset the subscriptions, as is done by the English societies, such as the Early Text, the Chaucer, the Spenser, etc. But it was found more difficult than was expected to proceed on this basis, and the work of the section has come to be rather that of a fund to be used in promoting the issue of valuable bibliographical material, the fund to be maintained so far as possible by the returns from publications. The expectation of the Executive Board is to be able to return to the subscribers of \$10 the full value of their subscription in the publications of the section, and at the same time to maintain and increase the fund through the judicious handling and sale of its publications. "Reading for the Young," lately issued, bids fair in the end to add to the fund rather than to be a draft upon it. The Executive Board have therefore decided to postpone yet further the calling for a second payment of dues from members, and instead to endeavor to increase the number. The advantages of membership are, 1st, the procuring of the publications of the section at 20 per cent. discount, and, 2d, a share in the good work of co-operative bibliography.

At the recent meeting of the section at the White Mountain Conference it was voted that associate memberships be established at a fee of

\$2, which is not to be refunded in publications like the \$10 fee for regular membership, but will entitle to the discount of 20 per cent. on the section's publications up to the amount of the \$2 subscription.

Mr. Lane, the Treasurer of the section, presents the following statement as to the standing of the accounts with members:

To each member in return for the original payment of \$10 there have been sent

3 sets of the 100 printed catalogue cards. . . . \$2.00  
3 copies of Reading for the Young. . . . . 2.40

\$4.40

which leaves \$5.60 still standing to the credit of each member.

A word of explanation may be in order here. The charge of \$2 for the printed cards must be regarded as sunk in an experiment which was not a success, but which opened the way for a clear understanding of the possibilities in this connection. Those who were most interested in this experiment were not led by it to give up their faith in some method being devised by which printed cards of new books can be acceptably and economically produced at a common centre for all libraries using the "regular" cards.

As to "Reading for the Young," the Executive Board decided on three cloth copies as the assignment to be made to each member and charged on the membership account. Members can buy additional copies at the 20 per cent. discount on the regular prices, whether for single copies or quantities.

It is hoped that many libraries as such, and many individuals, will join the section either as associate members or as regular members for the purpose of promoting its work. The "A. L. A. Index" to general literature is now well under way toward publication. This work promises to rival "Poole" as an every-day tool in the libraries, and the section needs all the help it can get towards the necessary expense of bringing it out.

W. I. FLETCHER, C. C. SOULE,  
C. A. CUTTER, W. C. LANE,  
M. DEWEY, *Exec. Board.*

Intending members should address W. C. Lane, the Secretary and Treasurer, at Cambridge, Mass. (Harvard University Library).

#### SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE.

THE vote concerning the meeting at San Francisco has been tabulated. 154 members have answered the inquiry. 34 vote for September or October, 14 for a period from May 1 to the last

of June, 4 have no choice. All of these express the intention of going. There are 7 who vote for the spring of 1892. Of those who say they intend to go, 1 cannot go in September, 6 cannot go in the spring, and 1 cannot go except in the spring of 1892. Beyond this there are 12 who say that it is possible they may decide to go, of whom 7 vote for September and October, 3 for April, and 2 have no choice.

This apparently fixes the time of going at September, 1891. A more definite announcement will be made hereafter.

H. E. DAVIDSON, *Assistant Secretary.*

### State Library Associations.

#### CONNECTICUT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE following circular has been issued to librarians, trustees of libraries, and others interested in library work:

At the Convention of the American Library Association, held at the Fabyan House last September, the Connecticut representatives resolved to take steps to form a State Library Association such as now exists in New York, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. For this purpose a meeting will be held in New Haven or Hartford in January, 1891.

The Connecticut Library Association will endeavor to promote closer union among Connecticut library interests. It will in no sense trench upon the province of the A. L. A., which of necessity chiefly confines its discussions to questions of broad national interest. Much may be hoped from a thorough discussion of Connecticut library matters by people who possess a full knowledge of local conditions. Frequent interchange of ideas and methods cannot fail to improve every department of library work.

It is proposed to hold at least four meetings each year. These will take place in different cities, in order that all members may have an opportunity of attending one, if not more of them.

The exact time and place of the preliminary meeting will be announced as soon as replies are received to this circular.

If you are in sympathy with the movement, please communicate at once with the undersigned:

W. J. HILLS,  
*Supt. P. L., Bridgeport, Conn.*  
W. A. BORDEN,  
*Librarian Y. M. I., New Haven, Conn.*  
W. K. STETSON,  
*Librarian F. P. L., New Haven, Conn.*

## NEW JERSEY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE meeting of librarians, trustees, and others interested in library work held at Union Library, Trenton, N. J., Dec. 29, 1890, was called to order by F. P. Hill, of Newark.

B. B. Hutchinson, President of the Board of Trade, was made temporary Chairman and Martha F. Nelson Secretary. Mr. Hutchinson in his address of welcome spoke of the "Public libraries of our time being among the most valuable and effective agencies, hand in hand with the church, the home, and the school in the promotion of the spiritual, mental, and even physical welfare of all classes of people." He heartily welcomed each and all as the representatives of this important work. He regretted that here in the capital city of the State we are unable to point out a *free* library.

A committee of three was appointed to propose a name for the Association and present a constitution and by-laws.

Messrs. Hill, of Newark, Marshall, of Woodbury, and Stratton, of Salem, were appointed. The committee reported that the Association be called the "New Jersey Library Association." The constitution, drawn from two similar Associations, N. Y. and Mass., was read and adopted as a whole. After remarks regarding the meeting and organization, it was moved and seconded that we perfect the plans at once and resolve this meeting into the "N. J. Lib. Assoc." Carried. Moved and seconded that a committee of three be appointed by the chair to nominate permanent officers for the ensuing year. Carried. And the Chair appointed Messrs. Richardson, Stratton, and Rev. Dr. Thompson. While this committee were in consultation Mr. Hill read letter and telegram from Melvil Dewey, regretting his inability to attend this meeting, having fallen on the ice and being unable to get here from Albany, N. Y.

Committee on Permanent Organization reported as follows:

President, Rev. W. Prall, Ph.D., So. Orange.  
Vice-Presidents, Frank P. Hill, Newark;  
Prof. Ernest C. Richardson, Princeton.  
Secretary, Martha F. Nelson, Trenton.  
Treasurer, G. F. Winchester, Paterson.

The nominations were unanimously accepted. The President was then conducted to the chair, and gave an address on Library work and education.

Mr. Hill read letters of regret from several not able to attend the meeting and who would sanction every action taken by the Association, and who wished their names placed on the member-

ship list. In absence of the Treasurer Miss Nelson was appointed *pro tem.* 37 members, 26 of whom were present.

Mr. Weeks spoke of the A. L. A. Endowment fund; followed by Mr. Hill, giving the names and amount subscribed thus far toward the pledge made in behalf of New Jersey by him at the A. L. A. Conference last Sept. Prof. Richardson explained this fund more particularly and promised to double the amount already pledged, which was \$30.

Pres. Prall called upon Miss Cutler, Vice-Director of the Library School, Albany, N. Y., who spoke of other State organizations, and of New York in particular.

Mr. Hill called for remarks from the librarians present regarding their opinion of the Association and also the method of work at their respective libraries.

Mr. Stratton, of Salem, and Mr. Marshall, of Woodbury, responded.

Mrs. George B. Cunningham, of Trenton, who is much interested in having a free library here and who tried hard several years ago for one, also made some remarks.

Motion made and carried that President appoint a committee of three to look up what laws actually apply to village libraries in New Jersey, and report at next meeting — Messrs. Stratton, Weeks, and Hutchinson. Another committee of three to look up the same laws in other States — Messrs. Richardson, Hill, and Thompson. Miss Cutler reported a similar work as having been done by Mr. Dewey and soon to be printed.

Mr. Marshall moved that the constitution and by-laws, list of members, and other interesting matter be printed in such a form as could be sent to all libraries in the State; also a full account to be sent to LIBRARY JOURNAL for publication. Carried.

Mr. Stratton asked if any one knew where certain books, not relating to law, that used to be in the State Library, had gone to? Mrs. Barber answered that they had been sent to the different State institutions, Prison, Industrial School, and Insane Asylum. They being the property of the State could not be disposed of in any other way.

Motion for adjournment moved and seconded. Meeting adjourned to meet at the call of the Executive Committee.

MARTHA F. NELSON, *Secretary.*

## CONSTITUTION.

## I. NAME.

This Association shall be called the "New Jersey Library Association."

## 2. OBJECT.

Its object shall be to promote the library interest of the State of New Jersey.

## 3. MEMBERS.

Any person interested in promoting the object of the Association may become a member by vote of the Executive Board and payment to the Treasurer of the annual assessment.

## 4. OFFICERS.

The officers of the Association shall consist of a President, Vice Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, to be elected by ballot at the annual meeting, who shall together constitute the Executive Board, which shall have power to act for the Association in intervals between its meetings.

## 5. MEETINGS.

There shall be two or more meetings of the Association in each year, one of which shall be the annual meeting, to be held the last Wednesday in October, at such place as the President may designate. The others at such times and places as may be fixed by the Executive Board.

## 6. DUES AND DEBTS.

The annual assessment shall be fifty cents. No officer, committee, or member of the Association shall incur any expenses in its name, nor shall the Treasurer make any payment unless authorized by specific vote of the Executive Board.

## 7. AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution may be amended by three-fourths vote of those present at any stated meeting, notice of the proposed change having been given in the call for the meeting.

## MEMBERS OF N. J. LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

Adams, Emma L., Plainfield.  
Barber, Mrs. R. M., Trenton.  
Bell, Mrs. T. A., Trenton.  
Blackwell, Minnie, Hightstown.  
Chamberlain, Nettie, Hightstown.  
Crane, Miss H. H., Newark.  
Cunningham, Mrs. G. B., Trenton.  
Cutler, Mary S., Albany, N. Y.  
Esterly, Mrs. J. B., Hoboken.  
Gregory, Prof. Benj. C., Trenton.  
Hatfield, Jos. F., Hoboken.  
Herzog, Alfred C., Jersey City.  
Hill, Frank P., Newark.  
Hunt, Mrs. E. M., Trenton.  
Hutchinson, B. B., Trenton.  
Johnston, Mary C., Trenton.  
Juhre, Charlotte, Newark.  
Koester, Miss, Hoboken.  
Marshall, Alfred G., Woodbury.  
Morningstern, Wm. B., Newark.  
Nelson, Martha F., Trenton.  
Niles, Nathaniel, N. Y. City.  
Orr, Mrs. E. S., Trenton.  
Perry, Belmont, Woodbury.  
Prall, Rev. Wm., So. Orange.  
Richardson, Prof. E. C., Princeton.  
Rider, Prof. A. J., Trenton.  
See, Grace H., New Brunswick.  
Stansbury, Josephine, Newark.  
Stratton, Morris F., Salem.  
Thompson, Dr. John B., Trenton.  
Underhill, Caroline M., Newark.  
Vogt, Rachel A., Newark.  
Weeks, Wm. R., Newark.

Winchester, George F., Paterson.  
Winser, Beatrice, Newark.  
Wood, Mrs. Geo., Trenton.

## IOWA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

## REPORT OF ORGANIZATION.

DES MOINES, September 2, 1890.

SEVERAL of the Iowa librarians having resolved to attempt some associated work, the following circular was sent to the libraries of the State:

A meeting in the interest of Iowa libraries will be held at Des Moines, in the State Library, September 2, at 10 o'clock a.m. All librarians and others specially interested in libraries are invited to be present.

ADA NORTH, University Library.

MARY H. MILLER, State Library.

T. S. PARVIN, Iowa Masonic Library.

CLARA M. SMITH, Burlington Public Library.

CLARA C. DWIGHT, Dubuque Y. M. Library.

In response to this invitation some seventeen librarians and several citizens of Des Moines assembled at the capitol on the appointed day.

The meeting was called to order by Hon. T. S. Parvin, who made a few introductory remarks warmly supporting the proposed organization.

Mrs. North being called upon said that among the reasons that had led to the conference were the desire for better acquaintance and for consultation upon library management; the advantages which might result from adopting some uniform system of reports; and the importance of arousing a more general interest and co-operation in library progress in the communities and schools of the State.

Mrs. Dwight then read a paper upon "Public Libraries and Their Relation to the Public Schools." A lively discussion ensued, in which Mr. Lathrop, of the State Historical Library; Miss Ambler, of Mt. Pleasant; Miss Smith, of Burlington; Miss Babb, of Indianola; Mrs. Morse, of Des Moines, and others, joined.

At this point the Governor was introduced, said a few words of greeting and commendation of the movement, and excused himself on account of pressing duties.

The question of forming a society being brought up, Mr. Lathrop, of the State Historical Library, moved that a State Association be organized. Hon. Chas. Aldrich seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. The Chair named as a committee to draft a plan of organization Mrs. North, Miss Smith, Mr. Lathrop, Miss Dwight and Mrs. Morse, and by motion the following Committee on Nominations was appointed: Hon. T. S. Parvin, Miss Ambler, of Mt. Pleasant, and Mr. Gay, of Boone. The conference then adjourned for dinner.

Upon reassembling, the Chairman called upon the Committee on Plan of Organization to report. The chairman stated that the committee recommended, with slight alteration, the plan recently adopted by the New York libraries, as follows:

1. The association shall be called the Iowa Library Society.
2. Its object shall be to promote the library interests of the State of Iowa.
3. Any person interested in promoting the object of the association may become a member, by vote of the Executive Board, on payment to the Treasurer of a registration fee of one dollar.
4. The officers of the association shall be a President, Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, who shall together constitute the Executive Board, which shall have power to act for the association in intervals between its meetings.
5. A regular meeting of the association shall be held in the Iowa State Library during the week of the annual State Fair.
6. No officer, committee or member of the association shall incur any expenses in its name, nor shall the Treasurer make any payment unless authorized by specific vote of the Executive Board.
7. No member shall be liable for any dues beyond an assessment for necessary expenses, which shall not exceed one dollar per year.

The Committee on Permanent Organization reported the following names for officers of the Society: President, Mrs. Miller, State Librarian; Vice-Presidents, Mr. Johnston, of Ft. Dodge, and Mrs. Dwight, of Dubuque; Secretary, Mrs. North, University Librarian; and Treasurer, Miss Smith, of Burlington. These officers being elected unanimously, Mrs. Miller took the chair.

Mr. Parvin then made a brief report upon the Iowa laws relating to libraries and suggested certain amendments thereto. After some discussion Mr. Parvin and Mr. Gay were appointed to consider these suggestions and report at the next meeting.

Miss Crawford, of the Iowa State Agricultural College, spoke with enthusiasm of the School of Library Economy at Albany, giving a sketch of its history and methods. She was heard with much interest and questioned further.

Hon. Chas. Aldrich, of the State Autograph Collection, made a report full of interest upon the collection of local data, urging all librarians to aid in this work and to undertake independent collections in their several localities. He was followed by Hon. T. S. Parvin, whose long experience as collector of State archives and other data gives him authority. Mr. Parvin referred to his own noteworthy collection at the Iowa Masonic Library.

Mrs. North urged that the Society recommend a uniform list of statistics to be kept in all libraries

of the State, that this list be reported to the State Librarian and tabulated and published in her biennial report. After consideration the Society adopted a resolution to this effect, and Miss Smith and Mr. Johnston were appointed as a committee to draw up such a list. Mrs. North also spoke of the apparent need of some systematic plan in making up the High School libraries of the State. Having examined several such libraries and consulted with the superintendents and teachers regarding them, she believed that a list of reference books suitable for High Schools might be drawn up and sent out by the Society, which would be welcomed by many of the schools as an aid in their selections. The Chairman named Mrs. North, Miss Babb, Mrs. Morse, and Mrs. Dwight as a committee to draw up such a list.

The importance of a more frequent use of the columns of the local papers in calling attention to the work and wants of our libraries was referred to, and the discussion elicited the fact that more or less of this was already being done.

The question of the constitution of the Boards of Control of city libraries being brought up, a very free expression of opinion followed, showing that the experience of the members varied greatly, and that no uniformity existed in the present formation of these bodies. It was finally resolved that the Society recommend as an efficient Library Board of Trustees one made up of a member of the City Council, a teacher in the public schools, and three citizens, two of whom should be women.

Mr. Jackson, Secretary of State, being introduced, expressed his hearty interest in the new organization, and said that he should take pleasure in supplying any of the libraries of the State with such of the State publications as they desired, so far as practicable.

Letters, regretting their inability to attend the meeting, were received from a number of Iowa librarians, and letters expressing cordial interest in the movement from Mr. Melvil Dewey, of the New York State Library, and Mr. Frederick Crunden, of St. Louis Public Library.

The presence of several citizens of Des Moines gave encouragement to the enterprise.

On motion of Mr. Parvin the Society voted the payment of the expenses of the call, and directed as to the printing of the report of the proceedings.

The Executive Board were directed to act as a Committee on Programme for the ensuing year. The Society then adjourned.

ADA NORTH, *Secretary.*



This first gathering of Iowa librarians brought together members of the profession whose ability, earnestness, and enthusiasm were full of promise for the future of the Library Society. There was not sufficient time for the discussions that arose. Two days should be devoted to the gathering, to make it a profitable one.

If the college libraries are represented, as it is hoped they may be, a separate section will be formed for their discussions, as their interests and methods are quite apart from those of the public libraries.

It is suggested that members bring to the conference samples of their library appliances, such as book-supports, labels, cards, finding-lists, etc.

The programme for the coming year will be of practical questions, with short papers, and time will be allowed for informal discussion and general inquiries.

List of persons in attendance: Hon. Chas. Aldrich, Webster City; Miss Nellie Aukenev, Des Moines; Miss Hannah Babb, Indianola; Mrs. Clara E. Dwight, Dubuque; Miss Esther Crawford, Ames; Mr. F. V. Gay, Boone; Mrs. Frank Graves, Washington; Miss Lillian Johnson, Iowa City; Mr. W. H. Johnston, Fort Dodge; Mr. H. N. Lathrop, Iowa City; Mrs. M. H. Miller, Des Moines; Mrs. Stella B. Morse, Des Moines; Mrs. Ada North, Iowa City; Mrs. M. O. Orwig, Des Moines; Hon. T. S. Parvin, Cedar Rapids; Miss Shriner, Des Moines; Miss Clara M. Smith, Burlington; Mr. E. H. Warren, Toledo; Miss Sarah A. Welch, Des Moines; Miss Ida Wetmore, Des Moines.

#### MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB.

AN informal meeting of librarians held in the State Librarian's Room at Boston, Oct. 22, issued cards to 498 libraries having over 1000 volumes each, requesting the librarian and assistant to meet at the Green Room at the State House, Nov. 13, to consider the formation of a State Library Club. About 75 persons appeared. After prolonged discussion the following constitution was adopted:

##### 1. NAME.

This organization shall be called "The Massachusetts Library Club."

##### 2. OBJECT.

Its object shall be to promote the library interests of the State of Massachusetts.

##### 3. MEMBERS.

Any librarian, library assistant, or trustee of a library in the State of Massachusetts may become a member upon the payment of the first annual assessment.

##### 4. OFFICERS.

The officers of the club shall consist of a President, 2 Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, and a

Treasurer, to be elected by ballot to the annual meeting, who shall together constitute the Executive Committee, and serve until their successors are chosen.

##### 5. MEETINGS.

There shall be two or more meetings of the club in each year, one of which shall be the annual meeting, to be held the first Wednesday in October.

##### 6. DUES AND DEBTS.

The annual assessment shall be 50 cents.

No debt or obligation of any kind shall be contracted by the club, or by any committee, officer, or member thereof on its behalf.

##### 7. AMENDMENTS.

This constitution may be amended by three-fourths vote of those present at any stated meeting, notice of the proposed change having been given in the call for the meeting.

This meeting was accepted as the first annual meeting and the following board of officers was chosen: Pres., C. A. Cutter; Vice-Pres., S. S. Green, Miss A. L. Hayward; Sec., Gardner M. Jones; Treas., W. I. Fletcher.

Without a formal vote it appeared to be the desire of the club that the next meeting should be held in Boston in January, with the prospect of a meeting in May at Worcester.

The second meeting has been called to meet at the Boston Medical Library, No. 19 Boylston Place, Boston, Jan. 13, 1891, at 10.30 o'clock a.m. Program: President's Address; Questions and Answers; Recess for Social Intercourse; Discussions, "How can the character of the reading be improved?" introduced by Miss E. P. Thurston; 12.30, Address by Rev. E. E. Hale, "A public library a necessity in every town."

Members are requested to send to the President, as soon as convenient, questions on any matter which they would like to have discussed.

To join the Club it is only necessary to send 50 cents to the Treasurer.

GARDNER M. JONES, *Secretary*.

### New York Library Club.

#### NOVEMBER MEETING.

A REGULAR meeting of the New York Library Club was held at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, Thursday, Nov. 13, at 3 p.m. President Baker presided and nearly 100 members and guests were present. Among the latter, the Club had the pleasure of greeting Dr. Linderfelt, of Milwaukee. In the absence of Mr. Charles Pratt, the Club was gracefully welcomed by Miss Healy, of the Pratt Institute Faculty, who, after stating that Mr. Pratt had been pleased to open the various departments of the Institute for inspection after the meeting, begged the librarians to remember that the library was but a small part of the Insti-

tute, and might indeed be regarded as but in an embryonic condition. Any faults discoverable might be attributed to its extreme youth; its merits and virtues, however, were due to a most generous Board of Trustees, and above all to the untiring zeal and enthusiasm — to the genius, in short, of its librarian, Miss Miller, who had just left them for what she regarded as a happier field, although it was with great regret that the directors permitted her to resign her work and undertake the classification of that unknown quantity, man. In conclusion, Miss Healy bespoke for Miss Miller's worthy successor, Miss Plummer, a hearty welcome, from whom the Club was promised an account of the work of the Pratt Institute Library.

*The President.* — The Library Club echoes most heartily the warm praise of Miss Miller, coming as it does from one from whom it proceeds more gracefully than it would from ourselves. There are some things in regard to Miss Miller's departure which it is not altogether pleasant to reflect upon. She has to give up her work, and she is going to live in Chicago. We hope, however, that her choice is a wise one, and we congratulate her in her new field. It is something of a warning to all of us, to appreciate those of our feminine members that remain but may not be with us for long. Matrimony loves a shining mark, and they may be soon taken from us in the same way. We will trust that with their high sense of duty they will meet even such a dispensation with courage and resignation. It is with great pleasure that we welcome Miss Plummer's return to us, and we will gladly hear from her an account of the work of the Pratt Institute Library. The Secretary's report is now in order.

*Secretary.* — The following persons have been proposed to the Executive Committee for membership, and are unanimously recommended for election: Miss Mary W. Plummer, Miss Mary C. Mosman, Miss L. Atalanta Ramsdell, Miss Deborah Keith Sherman, Mr. George J. Hagar, Mr. John F. Hatfield, Mr. W. F. Stevens, Prof. E. C. Richardson, Mr. C. G. Neumann, Mr. William R. Weeks, and Miss Josephine Stansbury. They were elected.

The Treasurer reported all bills paid, and a balance on hand of \$2.18.

*The President.* — Considering the state of finance in the city at present, this is a very favorable showing.

The report of the Library Manual Committee was made through the President, its Chairman. (L. J., v. 16, p. 344.) The circulars requesting in-

formation were ready for printing. The question of financial responsibility and a publisher needed to be considered.

*Mr. Poole.* — As a society, we are not prepared to incur this responsibility. It has been suggested that the expense might be defrayed by advertisements. Mr. Peoples was saying to me that he could distribute 4 or 5000 copies of such a manual in his library. I have here a "Catalogue of Clubs" — in which, by the way, the Library Club does not appear — which is of attractive appearance, and may be of interest to some of you.

*Miss Coe.* — We can form an idea of the expense by the amount of information we receive. I think it undignified to interleave with advertisements. I believe the libraries would be willing to bear the expense. My own would do its share. We wish a manual that will do us credit, and that we will not be ashamed to place in our own reading-rooms. Mr. Ford perhaps could manage its publication as successfully as he does that of his own works.

*The President.* — I think we can find some one to publish it, and that it could be made to pay as a publishing venture. As to its form — whether brief and official, or whether more space should be given to descriptive matter — the publisher would have something to say. The amount of information we are to gather would depend on the method of publication.

*The Secretary.* — Does any one know anything in regard to the popularity of Stock's "Book lovers' library" series? Our manual would appeal to the same class, and might be published in similar style.

*Miss Coe.* — They are very popular in all my libraries.

*The Treasurer.* — The Putnams might take it up.

*Mr. Hill.* — I move that the matter of publication of the L. C. Manual be referred to the Manual Committee, with instructions to report at the next meeting.

Voted.

*Miss Coe.* — I ask for a vote of opinion on advertisements.

*The President.* — How many are of the opinion that the Manual should be wholly free of advertisements?

Six affirmative.

*The President.* — How many think that a judicious placing of advertisements of a certain class would not be objectionable?

There were thirteen.

*The President.* — The Executive Committee are

of the opinion that brief social reports of library news or any items of interest, contributed by members, in regard to the libraries which they represent, would be a valuable and interesting feature of every meeting, promoting the interchange of ideas and fraternal relations between the various members of the club. I have here a list of the libraries from which we have representatives, in the order in which the members' names appear upon our alphabetical list. Before proceeding in that order, we would like to hear the promised account from Miss Plummer, of Pratt Institute Library.

*Miss Plummer.* — The total number of borrowers registered to the 1st of July, 1890, was 9515; circulation during the year, 98,909. The number of volumes is about 28,000. In addition to the regular lines of work of a circulating library, talks are given before the pupils of the Technical High School on the use of cyclopædias, dictionaries, atlases, books of quotation, indexes, the use of catalogues, etc. A cataloguing class of ten members was started in June, three lessons of an hour's duration being given weekly. Some of its members are engaged in other libraries, and put their instruction to immediate use. Another class began in the autumn. A training class of eight members receives instruction in general library work, including desk-work, hand-writing and printing, the mechanical preparation of books for the shelves, entering and classifying, shelf-listing, reading-room duties, care of supplies, binding — in short, all of the processes of a library. Instruction is also given in reference-work. The assistant in charge of a special department or kind of work is the instructor of the class when the time comes to take up that branch.

It is hoped that a class may be formed for the study of English composition, and one in English literature; the former with a view partly to teach appreciation of style and discrimination between well and poorly-written books, the other from the library side of university extension, to mark out a comprehensive course of English reading. A branch of the library at Greenpoint is called the Astral, and is free to the public. Also, 1400 volumes are shelved; subscribers, 516; visitors to the reading-room, about 15,000 during the past year.

*The President.* — Are all these lines of instruction carried on by the librarian and assistants, or is outside aid called in?

*Miss Plummer.* — All the instruction is by the regular staff.

*The President.* — Columbia College Library is next on our list. The library is prospering, its growth during the last year exceeding that of any previous one. 14,000 volumes have been added during the year; 4400 volumes since last July; 800 or 900 came from President Barnard's collection; 2000 by the bequest of Charles M. Da Costa. Many of these were duplicates. Of the Avery collection in architecture and decorative art, 500 volumes have been received, and \$30,000 has been given to build it up. \$15,000 is to be applied to its care and preservation, as binding expenses, etc. It will be kept by itself, and known as the Avery architectural collection. Needed changes in the arrangement of our cataloguing are going forward. The classified catalogue is giving way to the alphabetical catalogue, and we hope to make the catalogue more serviceable to readers in the future than it has been in the past. The South Orange Free Library is to be heard from.

*Miss Ball.* — We have 7000 readers; an annual circulation of 12,800 volumes; 3000 volumes comprise the library. Though small, we feel it is doing good work. It is supported by voluntary contributions. It is classified and catalogued according to the Dewey system.

*Mr. Hagar.* — From personal observation I can bear witness to the usefulness of this small library. There has been a large increase in the number of readers, and the improvement in the class of reading is marked. This is due to the efforts of the librarian, especially with the young people, in directing them to the better class of books.

*Mr. Hill* (reporting for Newark Free Library). — We have now been in operation a year, and have circulated 3,011,290, a daily average of 9940. There are between 28,000 and 30,000 volumes on the shelves. We are beginning to prepare lists of books on items of current interest, for daily posting, as is done by Mr. Foster in Providence, and lists are posted in connection with the teachers' courses of lectures. One of our club members, Prof. Abernethy, has been delivering a course of lectures on English literature, and prepared a list of books on his subjects. We obtained all the works on his list, and twenty-four hours after they were posted not one of the books were left on the shelves. I should like to notify the members of the club that Mr. Dewey will lecture at Trenton, Dec. 29, on "Select Libraries;" and that I have received the first subscription to the A. L. A. Endowment Fund, \$5. This was from the first person I

asked. If any Brooklynites wish to contribute, and feel too far away from New York, they can hand me the amount for the New Jersey subscription.

*Mr. Berry* (reporting for Brooklyn Y. M. C. A.).—We have been glad to grow to the extent of 1,000 volumes during the year. Our efforts are along the line of improving the character of reading. 20,000 volumes were circulated during the year. The reference department is more used, is well kept up and attractive. We make a specialty of helping people to find what they want. A handbook explains the card catalogue in a way most any fellow can understand. We have a case filled with books on topics of the day—political science or African travel, say. These are protected by straight gilt wires in 3 inch squares. A fellow can poke his book and see it move. He likes to see the book. I do myself. We look up books and references for two or three debating societies. During the past year the amount of fiction read has decreased from 33 per cent. to 20 per cent.; history has increased from 20 to 24 per cent.; political sciences has doubled. We have started daily exchanges with the other Y. M. C. A. branches in the city.

*Miss Coe*.—(For N. Y. Free Libraries.) Our circulation numbers 402,000 v. during the last year; we have 56,000 v. The use of books in the reading-rooms has doubled. We bulletin the new books and have a special shelf for such. Sometimes the librarian varies by reversing the label "New Books," and arranges another selection, "Good Books for Girls" or for boys, which remain for a few days. We will soon open another branch in 125th St.

*The Secretary*.—(For the Brooklyn Institute.) A fire in the Institute building, Sept. 12, destroyed the building, with the exception of the ground floor. The library was practically uninjured, but as its income was derived from rentals of other portions of the building, the directors have been obliged to discontinue its work until the building is restored. The library had planned to coöperate closely with the educational work of the Institute, and its use is greatly missed by the members. At a lecture recently given before the Institute by Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, a working bibliography of psychology prepared by him was placed in the hands of each person present; lists of books are prepared in connection with other systematic courses, and it had been the intention of the library to supply these. The lecture courses strongly influence the character of the reading.

*Miss Cutler*.—(For the Aguilar Lib.) Our circulation has been 131,000 volumes; 13,584 v. on the shelves. A new branch building on East Broadway will be ready next September.

*Mr. Stevens*.—(For Railroad Men's Lib.) We circulated 770 v. last month. That seems like an infant, after some of the reports, but the use of the books is on the increase. Our purchases are in the line of new books mainly, and the question in regard to them is, will it pay? That is, will the men read them? Practically, we can have what we want.

*Miss Hull*.—(For Union for Christian Work, Brooklyn.) Circulation 89,355; 8100 members; 18,885 v.; 382 v. daily average. We are adding several thousand new volumes.

*Mr. Poole*.—(For Y. M. C. A., 23d St.) Ours is mainly a reference library. Considerable classroom work is done. Classes in drawing have a collection of books taken for their use to a special room. There is a class in German history which uses a special selection, and several others.

*The President*.—As our time is limited, I will ask that the libraries not heard from to-day will keep their good things for us to be shared at the next meeting. The Executive Committee submits this revision of the constitution—of which each person will receive a copy—to your consideration, with their unanimous recommendation for adoption. (*L. J.*, v. 16, p. 343.)

*Mr. Hill*.—By our present constitution any amendment must be voted upon at two successive meetings to become valid. We have not time to-day to vote on each section, but I move that Article 6, concerning the time and frequency of meetings, be adopted.

Voted.

*The President*.—Dr. Linderfelt is invited to come forward and show the club how he looks. (Applause.)

*Dr. Linderfelt*.—It is a great pleasure to be present at this gathering. You seem to have here a second Library Association. I had no idea so many persons interested in library matters could be brought together in New York. I wish we could do the same in Milwaukee. The quintessence of what I have to say is, that I am very glad to be present.

*Mr. Bewker*.—The Secretary's notice invites the club to my library. After visiting Mr. Ford's library, you may not be able to find mine. Comparisons are "odorous." But you are heartily welcome to visit my study, and may be interested in some authors' copies, autograph letters, and photographs of famous men and places.

The meeting then adjourned, and the club, leaving the bright and pleasant room with its home-like furnishings and bunch of crysanthemums which had been devoted to their enjoyment, spent an interested three-quarters of an hour in the inspection of the Institute; but the time was quite insufficient for more than a hasty impression of the vast amount of excellent work accomplished by the art-schools, the wood-working classes, the domestic science department, the trade-schools, the museum, and last and most fleeting impression of all, the bright attractive library, with its pictures and growing plants, and numbers of interested readers.

The club then repaired to Mr. Bowker's home, where he was assisted in receiving his guests by his sister Miss Bowker, while Mrs. Bowker and Miss Plummer dispensed afternoon tea, and the enthusiastic librarians gloated over the funny little sketch by Thackeray, the interesting letters from English and American authors, presentation and autograph copies of books, and numberless other treasures.

Altogether the meeting was pronounced one of the most delightful in the history of the club, which owes sincere thanks for its pleasures to Miss Plummer and the Pratt Institute Faculty, and to Mr. Bowker.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee met at Columbia College, Dec. 22, at 4 p.m., President Baker in the chair; Miss Coe, Miss Crandall, Mr. Poole, and Mr. Hill the attending members. Mr. Edward J. F. Werder, of Yale University Library, Mr. Walter Twigg, of the Long Island Free Library and Miss Mabel A. Farr, of the Brooklyn Institute, were recommended for membership. The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

*N. Y. Library Club in account with S. H. Berry,*

#### Treasurer:

Dr.	Cr.
Cash on hand, Oct. 16., \$2.18	To Raynor & Martin, \$3.27
Received since..... 13.00	" Liebenroth, Van
	Au & Co..... 77
	" Herzog..... 39
	" Postage..... 1.00
	\$5.34
	Cash on hand..... 9.84
\$15.18	\$15.18

Unpaid bills were to T. W. MacMullen, for die-sinking, \$4; to Brooklyn *Eagle*, for 100 postal notices, \$2.

The Chairman was directed to certify the same.

It was voted to accept the invitation of the Rev. Charles R. Gillett to meet at the Union Theological Seminary for the January meeting, and to request Mr. Gillett to describe to the club

the special administration of a theological collection; to require a report from the Manual Committee, and to take action on the revised constitution.

*Mr. Poole.*—In Article VI. (L. J. 16, p. 343), adopted at the last meeting, I would move the omission of "at 2:30 p.m.," leaving the time of meeting to the discretion of the Executive Committee. In that case, if we were going out of town, an earlier meeting could be arranged for.

*Mr. Hill.*—Or the words "or at such time as the Executive Committee shall select" could be inserted.

After informal discussion of means of publication for the Manual, the committee adjourned.

M. I. CRANDALL, *Secretary.*

#### Library School.

THE following names should be added to the list of junior students in the October JOURNAL.

Edwin Hatfield Anderson,	Chicago, Ill.
B.A., Wabash College, 1883.	
William Reed Eastman,	Wellesley, Mass.
B.A., Yale College, 1884; M.A., 1887.	
B.D., Union Theological Sem., 1864.	
Mary Letitia Jones,	Hastings, Neb.
B.L., Univ. of Nebraska, 1885.	

Mr. Linderfelt paid us a visit Nov. 20, and we spent a delightful afternoon in listening to his account of the library buildings which he saw on his tour of inspection, and his answers to questions on various subjects propounded by the School.

The reading seminar (see L. J., Oct., '90) is developing new interest in this line of work. Each student spends four hours a week during the entire course in general reading under direction of the faculty. One hour a week is given to an exercise, in which both classes take part, gathering the results of such reading. This work admits of great variety. Students take their turn in acting as reporter, *i.e.*, presenting to the class in a ten minutes' talk, the leading events of the week, thus gaining practice in gathering material and in speaking before an audience.

Once a month a vote is taken on the leading books of the previous month, *e.g.*, on the first Monday of December the books of October are voted upon, each student being prepared to choose by careful study of the *Publishers' Weekly*, *Bookseller*, *Nation*, *Literary World*, *Critic*, *Dial*, *Athenaeum*, *Spectator*, *Academy*, and *Saturday Review*, and as far as possible by actual handling of the books themselves. Titles of selected books are preserved by each student



on separate slips, with references to good reviews. Frequent visits are made to the Albany and Troy bookstores, for a sight of the new books not included in those sent the State Library. Arrangements have now been made for receiving weekly all the more important publications, which will be on inspection in the school-room for a full week. The statistics below show the number of new books reviewed and the promptness of their notice in four leading critical periodicals.

	Total No. of books reviewed in			Of 505 books published in SEPTEMBER there were reviewed in			Of 554 books published in OCTOBER there were reviewed in	
	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	SEPT.	OCT.	OCT.	NOV.	
CRITIC.....	65	106	149	5	7	19	67	
DIAL.....	14	18	29	..	..	1	17	
LITERARY..	37	69	171	5	12	20	62	
WORLD....								
NATION.....	65	56	76	1	6	14	14	

An attempt is being made to work out a method of reviewing literature adapted to the needs of busy librarians. An author is selected by the class, a week or more beforehand. Investigation is on the following lines:

Brief sketch of author's life.

List of his works, with general character of each.

Best edition of his works.

Concise estimate of the author, by one or more good critics.

Reading from author's works.

This is followed by a comparison of work done, and an informal talk on the merits of the author. Each person has by this hasty review added something to his knowledge of the authors already studied, viz., Lowell, Matthew Arnold, Heine, Balzac, and Turgeneff.

The Christmas recess began Wednesday, Dec. 24; the winter term opened Tuesday, January 6. Miss Harriet Green, of the Boston Athenæum Library, has begun her instruction in dictionary cataloging.

MARY S. CUTLER.

NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY, JAN. 8, 1891.

### Library Economy and History.

#### GENERAL.

DELISLE, L. Instructions élémentaires et techniques pour la mise et le maintien en ordre des livres d'une bibliothèque. Lille, Imp. Danel, 1890. 76 p. 8°.

GOTTLIEB, THDR. Ueb. mittelalterliche Bibliotheken. Leipzig, Harrassowitz, 1890. 12 + 520 p. 8°. 14 m.

HALES, S., *libr. of the Teynbee Free Students' Library, E. London*. Workingmen and free public libraries; a plea for fuller opportunities of culture, with statistical table of free public libraries now open in London. London, 1889. 8 p. O. "Mr. Hale's statement of his case is as admirable as it is concise." — *Library*, Feb. 1890.

J. R. LOWELL'S "Books and libraries," address at the opening of the F. P. L., Chelsea, Mass., is reprinted in his "Literary and political addresses," v. 5 of his Writings, Boston, 1890. D.

MOUNTFORD, E. W. The planning of free public libraries. (In the *Builder*, Feb. 15, 1890, p. 116 - 118, with 1 cut; and in the *Building News*, Feb. 7, p. 195 - 199, with 5 cuts.)

Mr. Mountford treated the subject with much detail. On one point certainly he displayed more knowledge of the question than some who have lately written upon it here. "A badly arranged plan will not only increase the anxiety and labors of the librarian, who is responsible for keeping order in the building, but may necessitate the employment of one or more extra assistants, thus adding to the cost of maintenance."

His remarks on alterations might apply *mutatis mutandis* to other things about a library than the building. "Nothing could be more objectionable than the practice of altering existing buildings to serve as libraries. Not only is the result invariably unsatisfactory in respect of the inferior nature of the accommodation provided, but the plan has not even the merit of being economical. As a rule the first cost of such building, plus the outlay necessary for alterations and additions, would suffice to erect a properly-arranged and well-appointed building, more convenient to the librarian and more comfortable and attractive to the public. At Wandsworth is an example of the adapted building; and, apart from the new reading-room, it would be difficult to imagine a place more unsuited to its purpose."

In the discussion which followed, Mr. J. M. Brydon, who opened it, said that the views of librarians were of more importance on this subject than those of architects, but the latter could consider certain points in the building as well within their province. The President, Mr. Leonard Stokes, said that the architect who planned a library should first endeavor to accommodate his books and staff and the public, and then suit his architectural style to the requirements so laid down.

One remark points to a difference between English and American customs. "The librarian's apartments," said Mr. Davies, of the Wandsworth P. L., "should allow for the possibility of his being a married man with children, and should consist of at least a sitting-room, two or three bed-rooms, kitchen, and scullery."

RITCHTER, P. E. Verzeichniss der Bibliotheken m. gegen 50,000 u. mehr Bänden. 1, Deutsch-

land, Oesterreich-Ungarn, Schweiz, England, Nord-Amerika. Lpz., Hedeler, 1890. 27 p. 8". 3 m.

From the *Export journal*.

STANLEY, Prof. Hiram M., *libn. of Lake Forest Univ.* Our education and the progress of art. (Pages 82-88 of *Education*, Oct. 1890.)

Treats in part of the power of the library to diffuse knowledge of and taste in art. "By becoming a circulating medium for all the arts, the musical, the pictorial, and the plastic, as well as the literary, the public library would multiply its usefulness many fold."

#### LOCAL.

Baltimore (Md.) *Mercantile L.* has inaugurated a *Family Subscription* at \$12, which will entitle one person and three of the members of his own family, resident with him, to the privileges of the library and reading-room. Eight books may be drawn at one time. The names of the persons entitled to the privilege will be indicated and the ticket will be transferable to any other person.

Boston (Mass.) *P. L.* The total expenditures on the new building up to Dec. 1, 1890, have been \$1,025,045.38 and the balance on hand is \$424,954.62. Of the loan authorized March 18, 1889, \$189,000 is yet to be issued.

Of the expenditures, \$1,025,045.38 on the building, \$81,165.57 was expended by the City Architect, and the balance, \$943,879.81 under the direction of the Board of Trustees.

The order that His Honor, the Mayor, be requested to petition the Legislature for authority to borrow \$350,000 to be expended for the completion of the new Public Library building on Copley Square, the said amount not to be included within the limit fixed by section 2 of chapter 178 of the acts of the year of 1885, was debated by the City Council and was passed in concurrence with the Board of Aldermen by a vote of 41 yeas to 15 nays. Mr. Lowell, of Ward 11, opposed the order on the ground that before proceeding further some committee ought to ascertain if the amount asked for would be sufficient to complete the building. He believed that the responsibility of asking for the loan should be placed upon the trustees instead of upon the City Council.

An amendment offered by Mr. Towle, of Ward 17 providing that the trustees of the Public Library shall petition for the loan, was rejected, and in the discussion in favor of the order as it came from the Board of Aldermen it was shown that the cost of the Public Library, with the \$350,000 included, would be only 55 cents per cubic foot, as against a much larger sum for public buildings in other cities.

"These figures have been reached as a result of a long and exhaustive examination of detailed estimates furnished by the architects in charge, and the building is now so far advanced that little margin for error remains."

"Of buildings put up for the United States Government in this part of the country, the post-office and court-house at Fall River represents the lowest cost per cubic foot, namely between

40 and 50 cents. From this figure, the cost ranges as high as \$1 per cubic foot for the post-office building at Hartford, Conn., and even higher in the case of structures known to have been extravagantly built. The new Public Library building — including the court, for the purpose of comparison — will be completed at the cost of 40 cents per cubic foot, or as low as the lowest-cost United States buildings in this section.

"Leaving out the court altogether, the cost of this building, on the basis of all the appropriations made for it, under the present architects will be 634 cents per cubic foot. But, considering the facings with the cornice, balconies, and the marble arcade, with which this court is embellished, but which are absent from the well-rooms in the public buildings with which comparison is made, it is proper to include at least half of this area in figuring the cost per cubic foot; and this gives 55 cents, a very moderate expenditure when placed alongside the cost of other public buildings, and considering the character and finish of the new structure. The area covered and included by the new Public Library is almost exactly equal to that occupied by the post-office and sub-treasury building in this city, yet the cost of the latter has been computed as more than 80 cents per cubic foot.

"It is intended to finish the interior of the building in simple style, to correspond with the exterior; except in the important parts, where the scheme of decoration, as it is now developed, demands harmonious ornament." — *Boston Post*.

Branford, near New Haven, Conn., is to have a costly new library, the gift of the Hon. J. H. Blackstone, of Chicago. A site for the building, with a frontage of 300 feet, was purchased Dec. 8. The library will be named the Blackstone Memorial Fund Library.

Brookline (Mass.) *P. L.* (334 rpt.) Added 1204; total, Feb. 1, 1890, 34,960; issued 55,912 (fiction and juv. 35,569). The report goes much more into the detail of library work than is usual and would be good reading to recommend to the too numerous persons who imagine that a librarian has a great deal of leisure time.

Brooklyn (N. Y.) *L.* "During the past summer 300 volumes of music by the best composers, such as Wagner, Liszt, Rubinstein, Moszkowski, Grieg, etc., have been added, forming a very desirable supplement to the circulating library of music. The library has been fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Paul Tidden, of this city, who gave the benefit of his judgment and experience in the purchase during his stay in Berlin. These works are now ready for circulation, and a bulletin of them will probably be printed about March 1, 1891."

"J. F. Sargent's Classified and annotated catalogue of reading for the young has been received, and copies placed for use at the desk in the book delivery-room, with the library shelf-numbers written in red ink at margin of page. Those wishing to purchase this excellent work can obtain it at the library; price, 75 cents in paper covers; \$1 in cloth binding. Parents will find this

book a very useful one in assisting them to select the best reading for their children."

*Chicago.* The new University of Chicago is negotiating for a union with the Baptist Theological Seminary at Morgan Park, which has a library of 25,000 volumes.

*Cincinnati P. L.* The Hon. W. C. P. Breckinridge, of Lexington, Ky., delivered an oration on the life and services of Henry Clay, in the library, Nov. 10, on which occasion the marble bust of Mr. Clay, lately presented by citizens of Cincinnati, was placed on its pedestal.

*Cleveland (O.) P. L.* (22d rpt.) Added 5540 (books purchased averaged \$1.21 per vol.); total 61,814; issued 234,238 (60 copies of "Little Lord Fauntleroy" failed to satisfy the demand); visits to reference dept. 53,566.

During March and April the library was extended and rearranged to occupy the additional room provided by the enlargement of the building. The circulating department is now arranged on an alcove plan, allowing access to all classes of books except fiction. This has thus far appeared to be very convenient for those using the library, is economical of work, and has not developed any serious disadvantages. The entire library was moved and rearranged without closing it or discontinuing the issue of books.

During the last term of the year collections of from 30 to 50 books were deposited in 7 schools of the grammar grade to be issued by their teachers to their pupils. The books were carefully selected from the classes history, travel, biography, popular science, and story. The work done with them was very satisfactory. One of our leading manufacturing firms has made arrangements to draw books for about 100 of its employes. They send for the books, return them, and become responsible for them. A good class of books are drawn. It is a significant fact that, of the 100 names registered by them not more than 3 had previously drawn books from the library.

*Cornell Univ. L.* Added 4676; total 107,445 v., 30,060 pm.; recorded use, by officers 5089, by students 37,846; actual use about three times as much.

"In August Dr. A. C. White entered upon his duties as assistant librarian, and began reclassifying the library upon an expansive system, in preparation for its removal to the new building. Dr. White has shown excellent judgment. As fast as the books are classified the new shelf-number is written on each volume and a corresponding label is placed upon the back. Up to May 17, 24,249 volumes were reclassified and labelled comprising the departments of General Philology and Languages, Classical Antiquities and Literature, General and Modern Literature and literary periodicals, Bibliography, Theology, and Church History. For all these, new shelf-lists have been prepared, and the books, so far as the crowded state of the shelves will permit, arranged in the relative order of the new numbers. Advantage will be taken of the summer vacation to add the new shelf-marks to the catalogue cards.

"At the present rate of progress there is no

doubt, considering the character of the books still to be catalogued, that at the end of the next university year the catalogue will be brought fully up to date. Mr. C. H. Hull, having decided to give up library work, has handed me his resignation. I take advantage of this opportunity to bear testimony to the value of his services and to the energy, faithfulness, and unusual aptitude for the work which he has displayed. It has proved difficult to find a thoroughly trained and competent person to take his place, but it is believed that in Miss Mary Fowler we have secured one who will carry on the work satisfactorily.

"Professor Burr has given as much time as he could spare from other duties to the preparation for the printer of the special catalogue devoted to the collection on Diabolism and Witchcraft, in the White Library, while Mr. Wright has been engaged in cataloguing the additions made by ex-President White during his visit to Europe and the East. For next year we have secured the services of Mr. W. H. Hudson to prepare for the press the special catalogue of the rich collection on the French Revolution.

"Notwithstanding the greater care exercised in granting cards of admission to the shelves, this use of the library shows even a more marked increase than the recorded use, the number of cards issued during the year being 190 as against 80 in the preceding year. Of these 84 were for subjects in History and Political Science, 31 in Literature and Philology, 50 in Science and Technology, 25 in Philosophy and Education. The crowded state of the alcoves, due partly to this increase in the number of students admitted to the shelves, and partly to the greater numbers of graduate students to whom is granted the general freedom of the alcoves, has caused considerable inconvenience to members of the Faculty in their use of the library, and undoubtedly renders it extremely difficult to preserve any orderly arrangement of the shelves, especially while the reclassification of the books is going on. It has consequently been urged that the privilege of admission to the shelves should be suspended, so far as undergraduates are concerned, until after the removal of the library to the new building. But to students engaged in special work the advantages of direct access to the shelves at times is so great that I am reluctant to recommend such a course, and hope, by inculcating greater care in returning books to the shelves, and by greater discrimination in granting permits, to reduce to its lowest terms the inconvenience which has given rise to some complaints, without having recourse to such an extreme measure.

"To the great improvement in the electric lights is doubtless due the notable increase in the evening use of the library. From 6 to 9.30 p.m. the average daily number of those using the library was 26 as compared with 14 in the last two years. With the greater facilities for study and the improved method of lighting, to which we look forward in the new building, the evening use of the library bids fair to become proportionately as great as its use during the hours of daylight.

"The course of lectures on Bibliography I enlarged from twelve to nineteen lectures, and it now extends through the winter and spring

terms. The attendance has been larger this year than in former years, and the examinations of the winter term showed that the class had taken an active and intelligent interest in the subject."

*Hendale, O.* By the will of Mrs. Mary Allen \$50,000 is left for the formation of a school and library. It also provides that the property be held in trust by Rev. Frank Sewell, now of Washington, D. C. With it a free library and school in which music, painting, drawing, and the faith of the Swedenborgian Church are to be taught, are to be established. A plan is now being prepared to establish the institution, to be known as the "Charles and Mary Allen School and Library."

*Kansas.* At the meeting of the Kansas Academy of Language, Literature and Art, held at Topeka Nov. 29, reports were read on the libraries of the State, as follows:

State University Library, by Mrs. Watson; Topeka Public Library, by William Beer; Washburn University, by Prof. Whittemore.

*Massachusetts.* The members of the Massachusetts Free Public Library Commission are:

1. Caleb B. Tillinghast, State Library, State House, Boston, appointed for 5 years and designated by the Governor as Chairman.

2. S. S. Green, Free Public Library, Worcester, appointed for 4 years.

3. Hon. H. S. Nourse, Lancaster, appointed for 3 years.

4. Miss E. P. Sohler, Beverly, appointed for 2 years.

Miss Sohler has been chosen Secretary of the Commission.

5. Miss Anna E. Ticknor, 41 Marlboro' St., Boston, appointed for 1 year.

*Massachusetts.* WADLIN, Horace G., *Chief of the Bureau of Statistics of Labor of Mass.* Condition of employes. (From the 20th ann. rpt. of the Mass. Bur. of Stat. of Labor.) Boston, State printers, 1890. pp. 5+231 to 286. O.

Pages 242-264 contain lists of the free public libraries of Massachusetts in 1885, with statement of population (10 years of age and over), number of books, and annual circulation.

*Miami Univ. L.* Added 613; total 9879; issued 788; 88 % of the students were borrowers. The library has been painted and refurnished.

*New Brunswick (N. J.) F. C. L.* The custody of the library has not yet passed out of the hands of the trustees into those of the city, but the change will probably take place in the course of a few weeks. At present there are 7725 books on the shelves, all in good repair. The majority are works the perusal of which is calculated to improve and elevate the mind of the reader. The library is patronized almost entirely by the factory hands, and although the books, when returned, are in good repair, still there clings to them an odor so perceptible that it requires no guessing to tell at which one of the factories the member who returned the book was employed.

*N. H. State L.* "The State Library has entirely outgrown the quarters assigned to it sixteen

years ago. The room then provided for the library was estimated to be sufficient for 15,000 volumes, while the library has grown to considerably exceed 20,000 volumes. Many (books), however, are now stored away in the garrets, or other not easily accessible places, to the great inconvenience of those having occasion to use the library, as well as the librarian. And the library is increasing at the rate of about 1000 v. a year, and the necessity of better accommodations, already apparent as shown by the report of the committee on that subject two years ago, has become pressing. In some departments the library has not its equal in the State."

*New Haven (Conn.) F. P. L.* (3d rpt.) Added 2077; total 10,310; issued 125,327.

"The use of the best books is on the increase. The library is becoming more used for study and reference. Many teachers, as well as pupils, use it constantly, and would use it more if the books which they want were in the library. As time goes on and the library increases, this use of it will greatly increase.

"A new catalogue was issued the middle of September. Its cost, besides returns from advertising, was \$325. It is sold for 10 cents a copy. The change in the books drawn from the library was quite noticeable, and the usefulness of the catalogue is undoubted. It was constructed on a plan admitting of the lowest possible cost, and hence lacks some features which would be desirable. But it seemed advisable to spend only a small amount at present on a printed catalogue, while it is still indispensable there should be some kind of printed catalogue. The card catalogue is kept up and is considerably used, besides being nearly indispensable to the proper administration of the library."

*New Haven (Conn.) F. P. L.* The new building is almost ready for occupancy, but the final clearing up of the rubbish left by the builders remains to be done. The combination electric light and gas fixtures are now being put in, the arrangement being so that neither system of illumination need be entirely depended upon.

A reading-room for ladies exclusively is to be established in the rear gallery over the entrance hall, but this will not take away the ladies' privileges of the general reading-rooms.

*Newport, R. I. Redwood L.* Added 959; total 35,220; issued 9445 (fiction 55 %).

10,774 books have now been cataloged on 29,736 cards.

*N. Y. F. Circ. L.* Total 53,832; issued 402,701; Sunday circulation 31,699.

"The expenses of the libraries have been \$1,506.03 less than during the previous year. This decreased expenditure has been a positive detriment, and is the cause of much of the unsatisfactory showing of the library during the first six months of this year.

"At the Bond Street Library the reading is also falling off, and this, we think, is owing to two causes: First, the number of small libraries and reading-rooms in the vicinity; second, the fact that many of the buildings once occupied as residences have been converted into stores, and the



occupants have moved up-town. Your committee are of the opinion that it would be desirable to move the Bond Street Library farther up-town.

"A very large amount of cataloguing has been done during the year. A new catalogue has been printed and distributed for the Bruce Library, and portions of this have been available for the Bond Street Library. Lists of books on the useful arts and mechanical trades have been prepared and published in the *Staats Zeitung* free of expense, through the kindness of the editor; and many special lists and bulletins have been prepared in all the libraries. The outlook for the catalogue department has never been so satisfactory as at present, and if the Board of Trustees can give your committee sufficient money they will be able to furnish many useful catalogues and lists in the course of the year.

"We have in contemplation a series of short lectures, on historical and other topics, to be delivered during the winter in the reading-rooms. Each lecturer will suggest books to be read on some special topic, and a list of all the available books on this topic now on our library-shelves will be issued by the Librarians after the lecture. This experiment will probably be tried first at the Jackson Square Library, and will be continued as long as there is sufficient encouragement and suitable lecturers volunteer.

"The librarians have worked earnestly for the success of the libraries during the year; and to those who have not been frequent visitors your committee beg to say that the patience, perseverance, and endurance of those in charge are often sorely tried. Without the hearty co-operation of the librarians your committee can do but little, and the practical success of the libraries must be in their hands."

*Newark (N. J.) P. L.* (2d rpt.) Added 7904, of which 2083 were duplicates; total 18,904, with 6806 of the Newark L. Assoc. not yet catalogued; issued 330,810. "Accepting the experience of other libraries, it is expected the coming year will find quite a decrease in the number of volumes circulated, to be followed in two or three years by what may be considered the general average.

" $1\frac{3}{4}$  books were issued to every resident of Newark. Paterson circulated only one volume to each inhabitant; Baltimore, Md.,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ; Buffalo, N. Y., less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  volume to each person; Milwaukee, Wis., about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a volume, and Detroit, Mich.,  $\frac{3}{4}$ ."

*N. Y., N. Y. Harlem L.* Much complaint is again heard about the present site. Equipped with some 17,000 volumes, new books being constantly bought, and the shelves overcrowded, the library is said to be a practically useless institution. No. 2238 Third Avenue is as inconvenient a site as could well be found for the great majority of the would-be patrons of the institution. When the library was founded many years ago the better part, in fact nearly all, of Harlem was on the east side. Now exactly the opposite is the case. Efforts, remonstrances, and petitions have been put forth without avail. The library is well supplied with funds, and the only reason

it is not moved into a part of the city where it could be used is asserted to be the conservatism of the trustees, who, while personally recognizing the necessity of the change, fail to show any official appreciation of the needs and desires of the people. There has been no catalogue for ten years; the cars of the elevated railway rattle constantly by the windows; liquor-stores to the right to the left, in front and in rear, are the most common surroundings.

*N. Y. S. L.* Lawyers have long had a library maintained by the State, and physicians are at last to enjoy the same privilege. This desirable end has been secured through the action of the Aldany Medical College, which gave its valuable collection of over 5000 volumes to the regents as a nucleus. A convenient place will be assigned to this new medical department of the State Library, and the regents agree to keep it open during regular library hours. A suitable sum will also be asked for its maintenance. This matter has been under consideration ever since the new director of the State Library came to Albany. The leading physicians of Albany, who have taken a hearty interest in the project, also undertake to maintain their medical magazine and to give the new library the 150 medical periodicals which they now receive regularly, and also to contribute the large number of books which they receive for review.

*Philadelphia, Pa.* Many of the most prominent residents and business men of the 21st Ward have signed a call for a public meeting in Temperance Hall, on the evening of January 6, for the purpose of establishing a public library and free reading-room for working people and others in Manayunk.

*Pittsburg.* The offer of Mr. H. Phipps, Jr., to contribute \$10,000 to the Carnegie Library at Pittsburg, provided that the library be kept open on Sundays from 1 to 10 p.m., aroused a storm of protests, and though it was finally accepted by a vote of ten to six, a number of appeals were listened to, particularly from clergymen. "From the tenor of the objects to the terms of the offer," says the *Philadelphia Enquirer*, "it would appear to the outside world as if some well-meaning gentlemen of Pittsburg classed a public library in the same category with theatres, music halls, and places of amusement generally."

*Pittsburg, Pa. L. A.* is bequeathed \$5000 by the will of William Thaw, of that city.

*Portland, Me. PUBLIC Library.* [Front view.] (In *DRAKE, S. A., The pine-tree coast, Boston, 1891* [1890], O. p. 162).

*St. Paul, Minn.* The will disposing of the \$2,000,000 left by Judge H. Hale, of St. Paul, Minn., provides that \$500,000 shall go to the city for a public library and such other public institutions as the Common Council shall determine.

*San Francisco F. P. L.* Added 7580; total 57,958; issued 221,352 (fiction 51 %).

*Syracuse, N. Y.* Martin A. Knapp, who is so much interested in the establishment of a public library, has asked the aldermen to consider well



the interests of the city before any use is made of the old City Hall building. Mr. Knapp makes a very fair proposition. He says that if the city will give the land he and others will guarantee to raise by subscription \$100,000 or a sufficient sum to build a library building.

*Worcester (Mass.) F. P. L.* EARLE, Stephen C., *archit.* New additional building for the Worcester F. P. L. View and plans. (*Amer. archit.*, Aug. 30.)

The same, reduced, with a description, by S. C. Earle. (In *Library record*, Worcester, Nov. 1890.)

## FOREIGN.

*University College of North Wales.* "Following the example of the authorities of the South Wales University College, who lately purchased the well-known Salesbury Library, the Council of the University College of North Wales has just secured for that institution the library of Mr. E. Watkin, of Manchester. The collection consists of upwards of 10,000 volumes, a large number of which are Welsh books and books relating to Wales. — *Ath.*, Dec. 6.

*Battersea, Eng. Parish of St. Mary P. L.* (3d rpt.) Added 186; total 5357; issued 89,473 (fiction 75,832).

*Bermundsey, Eng.* NEWMAN & NEWMAN. Design for public library. (In *Amer. archit.*, Dec. 13.)

*Bradford (Eng.) P. F. L.* Added 2579; total 65,670; issued 516,923; visits 1,481,970.

*Clerkenwell, Eng.* KARSLAKE AND MORTIMER. New Free Library; view. (In *Illustr. London news*, Oct. 18, p. 494.)

Opened Oct. 16; cost £6500. Mr. R. M. Holborn offered £600 towards a building to Islington if it would adopt the libraries act; it wouldn't, so he gave £300 and over 1000 vols. to Clerkenwell. The lending department has 10,000 v. The news room will hold 50 people. In the library proper is a place screened off for ladies.

COLOGNE. STADTBIBLIOTHEK Veröffentlichungen 3. Hft. gr. 8. Köln, Du Mont-Schauberg, 1890. 8+127 p. 8°. 2.50 m. (Pt. 1-3, 11.50 m.)

*Contents:* Die Büchererwerbungen der Kölner Stadtbibliothek. Denkschrift v. Dr. Adf. Keyser. Bestimmungen üb. die Verwaltg. u. Benutzung der Stadtbibliothek.

*Fermo, Italy.* RAFFAELLI, Fil., *libn.* La biblioteca comunale di Fermo; relazione storica, bibliografica, artistica, con documenti, appendice, pianta topografica e prospettiva. Recanati, 1890. 209 p. 8°.

*Llangollen, Wales.* Is it too late to allude to the best part of Sir Theodore Martin's speech at the Welsh Town Hall, ten days ago? It was about novels. It appears that the good folks in Wales — like good folks elsewhere — prefer in their reading the palatable and pleasant to the wholesome and nutritious. They will read fiction,

and they will not, I fear, read much of anything else. During the year ending the 30th of last month, 3303 volumes have been taken out of a free library started at Llangollen four years ago, and of these Sir Theodore pathetically pointed out that no fewer than 2362 were novels.

"But Sir Theodore, like a sensible man, was less surprised at this proportion than at the extraordinary and inexplicable neglect bestowed on some of the most famous of our English novels. It was *that*, he allowed, which most amazed him. To say nothing of 'Rob Roy,' 'The Talisman,' and some more of the best Waverley novels which were but seldom asked for, there was 'The Caxtons' almost untouched, 'Martin Chuzzlewit' unappreciated, and the 'Scenes from Clerical Life' and 'Silas Marner' stiff from very newness." — *Critic*, Nov. 15.

*London, King's College.* The "Maraden" and general library. (In the *Graphic*, Nov. 15, p. 555.)

*Manchester (Eng.) P. F. L.* (38th rpt.) Added 4694; total 202,641; issued 1,564,808; missing 13; visits 4 195,109; average supply of books to each borrower 16 times in 12 months. The committee report for the first time in many years a decrease in circulation and attendance, which they attribute partly to a strike of the gasworkers, which caused the libraries to be closed for want of light, and partly to the improvement in trade and industry, which prevented many readers from spending so much time as formerly at the libraries. To make the advantages of the libraries better known to schoolmasters and their pupils, a circular has been addressed to the heads of schools in the city containing information about the libraries, and suggestions for the preparation of lists of books suitable for reading out of school hours.

The following lectures, in which reference was specially directed to books in the library, were delivered to large audiences at the Reference Library in January, February, and March last:

"On Secular Architecture." By Mr. Alfred Darbyshire.

"On Ecclesiastical Architecture." By Mr. Percy S. Worthington.

"On Sculpture." By Mr. John Cassidy.

*North Midland (Eng.) Library Association.* The second meeting was held at Newark upon Trent Oct. 9 when the chair was occupied by the President, Mr. Briscoe, of Nottingham. Mr. Midworth, of the Newark Stock Library, read a paper on "A librarian's duty towards his readers;" Mr. Briscoe contributed "Notes on early Newark printing and booksellers;" and Mr. Radford, of Nottingham, gave a *résumé* of the parent association's meeting at Reading. The Free, Proprietary, and Parish Church libraries were visited, and also the private library of Mr. Branstoun. The next meeting of this society will be held in December at Leicester.

*Nottingham (Eng.) F. P. L.* has arranged a series of "Half-hour Talks with the People about Books and Book-writers" for this winter.

### Gifts and Bequests.

J. H. BLACKSTONE, of Chicago, has purchased a site for a free library in Branford, Conn., and intends to build and equip it. Hendale, O., is to receive by the will of Mrs. Mary Allen \$50,000 for the erection of a school and library. The offer of H. Phipps Jr., to the Pittsburg (Pa.) L., of \$10,000, on condition it should be opened on Sunday, has been accepted after a severe struggle. The L. Assoc. of the same city is bequeathed \$5000 by the will of the late William Thaw. Judge H. Hale has left the P. L., "and such other public institutions as the Common Council shall determine." \$500,000. Martin A. Knapp has offered to raise \$100,000 towards a library in Syracuse, N. Y., if the city will contribute the land.

### Librarians.

COLE, G. Watson, assistant librarian at the Newberry Library, has been elected librarian of the Jersey City Public Library. Under the State law of New Jersey the library has an income from the city of something over \$25,000 a year.

DAVIS, Mrs. Olin S. (born Ada C. Rodgers), died at Duluth, Oct. 13, of typhoid fever, aged 19 years. She was married July 2. She was active in church work and a devoted Christian.

HAMILTON, Morris, the present librarian of the State of N. J., is as much of a State institution as the library. He comes from Oxford Furnace in Sussex County. His father, Samuel R. Hamilton, was for a quarter of a century the Quartermaster-General of the State. For thirty-five years he has been a working newspaper man, and has worked as far west as Kansas City. He was made a colonel by Governor Fort. He was seventy years old last May. He is a man of much mental activity, and now burns the midnight oil from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. each day, in completing the second volume of his history of New Jersey. He is a man full of humor and of life, and has a vast fund of information, and he is a capital storyteller.

MORISON, Nathaniel Holmes, Provost of the Peabody Institute, Baltimore, died Nov. , aged 74.

"The great work of his life," says the *Boston Post*, "was the creation of the library connected with the Peabody Institute at Baltimore, of which he had entire charge. The library is solely a reference library, intended not for the general public but for students of literature, science, and the arts. The sum of money at his disposal for this purpose was comparatively small, but Mr. Morison made such good use of it—relying mainly upon his own judgment, but sedulously availing himself of such advice and assistance as could be obtained from scholars and authors—that he built up a wonderful collection of books. Students in special subjects have frequently expressed their surprise at the richness and thoroughness of the library. There is no 'padding' in it."

RULE, Miss E., of the Lynn Public Library, went to the hospital to visit a friend. On attempting to rise from her chair she found herself unable to stand. A surgical examination was made, and it was found that there had been a contraction of the lower muscles of her leg, the muscles drawing away from the bone. Miss Rule has been unable to walk since, and is still confined to the hospital. Similar cases are said to be common among base-ball players and runners.

SIEBER, L.: *The Athenaeum*, reviewing "Das Testament des Erasmus vom 22 Januar, 1527, nach Amerbachs Copie in der Univ. Bibliothek zu Basel hrsg. von L. Sieber, Basle, Schweighauser," says: "Dr. Sieber is perhaps best known to bibliographers by his discovery of Fichet's letter concerning Gutenberg in the Basle copy of the 'Gasparini Orthographia.' But by those who have ever visited the Basle Library he will be remembered as one of the most thorough and scholarly, the most kindly and courteous librarians whom it has been their good fortune to come across. He is a scholar whose character and system remind one only too sadly of the loss Cambridge sustained a few years back, and whose topographical arrangement of the incunabula in his charge throws into strong relief the state of affairs in several more pretentious German libraries."—*Athenaeum*, Nov. 15, p. 660.

TRUMBULL, Dr. J. Hammond, for 27 years librarian of the Watkinson Library of Reference in Hartford, has tendered his resignation on account of ill-health.

### Cataloging and Classification.

FUMAGALLI, Gius. Della collocazione dei libri nelle pubbliche biblioteche. Firenze, G. C. Sansoni edit., 1890. 7+167 p. 8°. 3.50 lire.

Contains Particolari tecnici sulla collocazione materiale dei libri; Metodi di collocazione; Sistemi di collocazione praticati nelle diverse biblioteche italiane e straniere; Della collocazione per materie in particolare; Ancora della collocazione per materie; conclusioni. Forms pt. 4 of "Trattato generale di biblioteconomia."

THE HARVARD UNIV. bulletin for Oct. concludes the bibliography of Beaumont and Fletcher.

MINNEAPOLIS P. L. Finding list of English prose fiction and books for the young (author, title, and topic). Minneapolis, Nov. 1890. 138 p. 1. O.

Dictionary. No imprints. Some notes.

OTTINO, Gius. I codici bobbiensi della biblioteca nazionale di Torino indicati e descritti. Torino, Carlo Clausen edit., 1890. 8+72 p. 8°.

SALEM (Mass.) P. L. 2d suppl. to the finding list; Oct. 1890. Salem, 1890. 8+111 p. O.

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS. Library bulletin, no. 1. n. s., July 1890. 23 p. 1. O.

Dewey classification. Full titles.

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Miami University.  
N. Y. State Library.  
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